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Kleiner: We'll topple government over pullout decision

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), who heads the Land of Israel Front, yesterday warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against taking a decision on a large-scale redeployment during the Knesset recess, which starts today. "The six-week Knesset recess is not an indefinite period of time," Kleiner said.

He quoted National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as saying that a withdrawal of beyond 6 percent would harm security interests and that a 10% pullback would endanger access to Ben-Gurion Airport.

"I fear there will be a government decision at the end of the week on about 10% - although it makes no difference if it is 9% or 13%, because under the Oslo Accords it is Israel alone which determines the size of the redeployment and it is not obligated to anything more than one symbolic dunam," Kleiner said.

"This [government decision] will be done on the assumption that during these six weeks there will be no no-confidence motions, and in this period some of my colleagues will be persuaded to topple the government on the understanding that the alternative is worse, or perhaps with promises that construction will start on Har Homa," he added.

Kleiner said after the recess he would vote no-confidence in the prime minister, even on a motion filed by the opposition, if there is a large redeployment.

There is no justification for the existence of a national camp government which, in the framework of the second further redeployment of an interim agreement, hands over 10% of Land of Israel territory," he said. "I hope there will be enough of my colleagues who will vote to bring the government down."

He noted that under current coalition circumstances, only a few Land of Israel Front votes were needed to add up to the 61 necessary to topple the government.

UN's Butler praises Iraqi cooperation

Chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler ended two days of talks in Iraq yesterday by praising Baghdad's new mood of cooperation, which he said could help him swiftly finish his work. Butler said his talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz this week had shown a welcome change from their last raucous meeting in January.

"January was tough. That's for sure. Today was a light-year different," Butler said after a final meeting with Aziz in which he said progress was made towards accounting for missile warheads and chemical agents Iraq says it has destroyed.

Meanwhile, the man regarded as the architect of Iraq's germ weapons program was arrested in early March as he was planning to flee Iraq. The New York Times reported yesterday.

Nasser al-Hindawi is in an Iraqi prison after he was found with documents relating to the country's biological weapons program and evidence that he was about to leave the country illegally, Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's representative at the United Nations, said. (News agencies)

Annan: Lebanon deal will take time

UN chief to meet Husseini in Jerusalem

By JAY BUSHINSKY

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the government's prospective endorsement of Security Council Resolution 425 on withdrawal from Lebanon yesterday and stood ready to make sure the pullout is "implemented efficiently." However, he warned that there will be a need for "discussions" and that this process "will take time."

Annan is scheduled to meet Palestinian Authority Jerusalem Affairs Minister Faisal Husseini in Jerusalem today, but there is an argument as to where the meeting should take place.

PA officials have insisted on Orient House in eastern Jerusalem, but Annan said he preferred UN headquarters at Government House or the girls' school near Orient House so as to avoid embarrassing Israel. Foreign Ministry liaison personnel advised Annan's entourage that a visit by Annan to Orient House would trigger an unpleasant diplomatic incident.

A final venue had still not been set as of midnight last night.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Prime Minister

Schroeder urges compliance with Oslo, Page 2

pleas want it. I will do whatever I can to assist the process. I appeal to all the parties to move the peace process forward."

Netanyahu injected a note of political realism when he said: "I hope Syria won't pose difficulties over the long run." On the other hand, he was confident about the Lebanese Army's ability to take charge in southern Lebanon.

Annan agreed unequivocally. "The Lebanese government is effective," he said, "and the Lebanese Army has been professionalized and is doing well."

Turning to the ongoing effort to make headway toward peace with the Palestinians, Netanyahu defended his government's parameters for the next pullback in the West Bank - generally believed to be between 9 percent and 10%.

"We did not come up with a formula from midair," he said. "We built it from the ground up."

He stressed the importance of retaining terrain vital to security and especially the safety of the settlers. This included retention of overland routes used "by 40,000 schoolchildren daily," military installations, and strategic positions.

Annan recommended a softer approach to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, who he said is coping with the security issue, but "too much pressure makes things difficult for him."

"Peace reinforces security and security reinforces peace," he said. In a rejoinder, Netanyahu recalled the commitment made by the US in the Hebron Agreement, according to which Israel retained the exclusive right to determine prerequisites for its security. "Israel and Israel alone dictates its security needs," he said.

Advocating direct negotiations and deploring the resort to mediators, Netanyahu contended that the Palestinians should not expect others - the US or the UN - to solve their problems. He cited the positive outcome of direct talks with Egypt and the Madrid conference as successful examples. "The UN can give us encouragement," he said, but it cannot be a substitute for direct talks.

Asked about his successful defusing of the Iraqi crisis, Annan said the Iraqi leadership made a long-term agreement to cooperate with the UN. He took satisfaction in saying that UN inspectors "have been allowed to go to places to which they had been denied access for the past seven years."

Delighting Netanyahu, Annan said, "The only agreement worth its salt is an agreement that is implemented, not one that exists only on paper." Netanyahu immediately applied it to the Oslo Accords.

See ANNAN, Page 2



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves to reporters just before his joint press conference with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday. (Brian Henders)

Arafat at Arab summit: Peace process is 'taking its last breaths'

By HARGOT DUDKEWITZ and news agencies

Addressing the opening session of the Arab League foreign ministers forum in Cairo yesterday, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat declared that the peace process is "taking its last breaths."

Arafat accused Israel of blocking progress and urged the Arab world to convene an emergency summit to "shoulder its responsibilities to protect our people, our land, and the future of our generations."

He said that if there are problems in convening the entire Arab community, attempts should be made to organize a minimum summit.

"I repeat my call to convene an urgent Arab summit to review the situation," Arafat said. "The peace process is going through a dangerous phase and is taking its last breaths. I hold the international community responsible for the protection of the Palestinian people."

The Arab foreign ministers angrily rejected the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as being against the spirit of peace.

"All ministers feel angry because of Netanyahu's anti-peace policy," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said. "They reject provocative and aggressive statements by him and his defense minister."

"The foreign ministers' council

is studying the best way to express this annoyance and strong condemnation," he said.

"The Israeli government is clearly going to reject any ideas or initiatives that can revive the peace process," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters after the meeting.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouze slammed what he said were Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's threats to attack Lebanon unless it agrees to terms of an Israeli withdrawal.

"Threatening Lebanon is an illusion," he said. "Israel is living in a swamp in the south, and not the other way round."

Meanwhile, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of

Palestine published a leaflet condemning the US for retracting its proposal and claimed that its actions are biased. The leaflet called on the US to present an initiative that will include settlements as soon as possible.

PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman said the credibility of the US is at stake. "Why doesn't the US present an initiative that will compel Israel to implement the accords?"

While UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's visit to the region and PA areas has given the peace process a push forward,

Rahman said it is clear that without a US or European initiative the entire process would collapse.

'Titanic' steams to 11 Oscars

By TOM TUGEND and news agencies

LOS ANGELES - The headline honors went to *Titanic* and the stars of *As Good As It Gets*, at the 70th annual Academy Awards, but two Oscars in less glamorous categories illustrated the continuing impact of the Holocaust and its aftermath on filmmakers.

The 3-hour-plus epic *Titanic* - which at one time seemed as doomed as its real-life inspiration - steamed off with 11 Oscars, tying with 1959's *Ben-Hur* for the most awards.

Many critics had predicted that with production costs of more than \$200 million, the movie was going to be a financial flop. But in Hollywood, where box-office is all that matters, the critics could not have been more wrong - in 14 weeks, it has sold more than \$1.2 billion in tickets worldwide.

Helen Hunt was anointed Hollywood's new heroine for *As Good As It Gets*, and newcomers Matt Damon and Ben Affleck were

recognized for *Good Will Hunting*. Jack Nicholson won his third acting Oscar for *As Good As It Gets* and Robin Williams (*Good Will Hunting*) and Kim Basinger (*L.A. Confidential*) each won their first - for supporting roles - on a night that saw no real upsets.

The *Long Way Home* took the prize as the best documentary feature for producers Rabbi Marvin

All the winners, Page 9

Hier and Richard Frank of the Shalom Wiesenthal Center. The film chronicles the fate of Holocaust survivors in the immediate post-war years and their desperate attempts to reach Palestine.

In his acceptance speech, Hier dedicated the award to "the survivors of the Holocaust, who walked away from the ashes, rebuilt their lives, and helped create the State of Israel."

Host Billy Crystal seemed dumbfounded at Hier's presence, observing, "What a night, when

your rabbi wins an Oscar. Unbelievable."

It was the second Oscar for the Wiesenthal Center, whose very first documentary, *Genocide*, won in 1981.

The production team of *Long Way Home*, including writer-director Mark Jonathan Harris, is rushing to complete the official film of Israel's 50th anniversary celebration, titled *If You Will It*.

The true story of a diplomat who paid with his career for saving thousands of Jews won an Oscar for the short film *Visas and Virtue*. It honors Chime Sugihara, who was the Japanese consul in Vilna, Lithuania in 1940. As throngs of desperate Jews besieged his office to escape the on expected Nazi onslaught, Sugihara, against the direct orders of Tokyo, wrote out thousands of visas to enable Jews to escape to safety via the then neutral Soviet Union.

The film was produced by Irish-American Chris Donahue and Japanese-American Chris Tashima, who plays the role of Sugihara.

'Orange juice stops arteries clogging'

By JUDY SEGEL

Drinking three glasses of fresh orange or other citrus juice a day can help reduce the risk of developing atherosclerosis - the clogging of arteries with fatty plaque, which can lead to heart disease or stroke - according to a study conducted among students at a header yeshiva in Gush Etzion.

The department of human nutrition and metabolism at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, which previously investigated the effects of the "Mediterranean diet" on disease, carried out a three-month clinical study on freshly squeezed orange juice. The subjects were 36 healthy male students, 18 to 23, at the Har Etzion Yeshiva in Alon Shvut who go on home leave only once a month and eat solely in the yeshiva cafeteria.

The study, headed by Prof. Elliot Berry, was supported by a grant from the Israel Citrus Marketing Board, which provided a squeezing machine and the fruit, but Berry

said his research was conducted without influence by the board.

The findings, among the first in the world to show a clear effect of vitamin C on the levels of LDL (low-density lipoprotein, or "bad cholesterol"), was published in the February edition of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

The students, who were enthusiastic about the experiment, were fed diets typical of the Mediterranean region, but half of them also drank three glasses of freshly squeezed orange juice a day and the other half didn't (the juice-drinking group continued their diet on their short home leaves). This amount of juice is six times the recommended daily allotment of vitamin C. None suffered any negative side effects.

The juice-drinking group had three times more of the water-soluble vitamin in their bloodstream than the control group, whose diet contained only the recommended daily requirement of vitamin C. LDL particles in the juice-drinking group were significantly more sta-

ble than those in the control group. When LDL breaks down, it tends to clump on artery walls in a condition called atherosclerosis, which can lead to vessel narrowing, heart attacks, and stroke.

Berry said that despite many studies on the role of vitamin C - an antioxidant - in slowing the development of cancer and other diseases, its function as a stabilizer of LDL and protection against heart disease has not been as well established as the protective role of vitamin E, another antioxidant that neutralizes oxygen free radicals. But the yeshiva study confirms it has this effect.

Since only fresh orange juice was tested, Berry could not say for certain whether frozen juice or reconstituted juice - or, for that matter, vitamin C pills - would have the same effect. Vitamin C is known to dissipate when exposed to oxygen in the air. But he was certain that other fresh citrus juices would have the same effect, as they are also rich in natural fiber, which may also have an effect.



Haifa District Court told: Ex-IDF tracker stole command car, arms for PA

A former IDF tracker, Ibrahim Gadir, 27, of Haifa-Tivon, was charged yesterday in Haifa District Court with espionage, theft, and the illegal possession and sale of arms.

According to the charge sheet, early last month Gadir contacted Yihye Kadous, an official with Palestinian Preventive Security in Nablus, who had expressed an interest in obtaining machine guns, shoulder-fired missiles which could shoot down helicopters, and other weapons and ammunition.

On the night of February 6, Gadir and Salameh Ouda, of Houara, near Nablus, met at the Taibe checkpoint and traveled to an IDF post near Rosh Hanikra.

Gadir, wearing an insulated IDF jumpsuit and a fatigue cap, winter clothing typically worn by soldiers serving in the area, presented himself to sentries at the gate, told them he was a soldier serving in the area and that his jeep was stuck in the sand nearby.

He said he needed a heavily armed command car, used for border patrols, to extricate it.

He was admitted into the base, and proceeded to fake a telephone conversation with the battalion transport officer, after which he

told the sentries his use of the command car had been authorized. He then took the command car, which was equipped with three heavy machine guns, a 52 mm. mortar, ammunition, and other equipment, some of which was classified, and drove off the base.

Somewhere outside the base, he picked up Ouda and they drove to a spot along the border where they stripped the command car of its weapons, ammunition, and other equipment, including some of the classified material, and loaded into their vehicle, which they then drove to Nablus, where they proceeded to sell the stolen weaponry and equipment to Kadous for NIS 9,000 and "very many" Jordanian dinars.

The espionage charge relates to the classified equipment from the command car which was sold to a Palestinian Authority intelligence agency.

Gadir has also been charged with helping with the theft of heavy equipment from a construction site while serving as a supervisor for a private security firm, and with involvement in the theft of medicines from a pharmacy in Kiryat Tivon.

Both crimes were committed last month. (Jtm)

GSS arrests Palestinians suspected of murdering yeshiva student

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER
and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Palestinians recently arrested on suspicion of murdering yeshiva student Gavriel Hershberg and seriously wounding Binyamin Gil in Jerusalem's Old City in November told interrogators they planned the attack well in advance.

The IDF announced yesterday that the General Security Service, in cooperation with the police, recently arrested the suspected

gunman and his accomplice.

Gil and Hershberg were leaving their studies at Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva when they were shot.

According to the IDF, the gunman was identified as Iman Sharbat, 31, from Abu Dis near Jerusalem. He confessed that he and Ghaja Hadad, 19, had decided to attack Jewish targets. The two observed the movements of the students at their yeshiva and decided to attack them at night in the empty alleys.

On November 20, Hadad, who

lives in the Old City, served as a lookout and informed Sharbat that the pair were headed his way. Sharbat then jumped out and opened fire at them with a Kalashnikov rifle from a few meters away and fled. The wounded Gil managed to make his way to National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's home in the Moslem Quarter to summon help, but medics could not revive the mortally wounded Hershberg.

In his questioning, Sharbat said he purchased the weapon from a gun dealer near Hebron. The army has since recovered the Kalashnikov. They had planned to carry out a number of shootings with the gun, the army said.

Sharbat had once been imprisoned by Israel in the late 1980s for stone-throwing, arson and hurling firebombs. He said he had been inducted into a local organization with a religious bent, but IDF officials did not reveal to which movement he was referring.

Yossi Baumol, head of Ateret Kohanim, said he didn't think these

two were the only ones connected to the gang. "They better keep looking and make sure they find everybody who is involved in these things," he said. "We're not letting down our guard in the meantime, because we're not convinced the entire group has been discovered. We still have in force the stricter security rules for the students."

Baumol said Dil will shortly undergo a third plastic surgery operation to reconstruct his jaw, and he is expected to return to the yeshiva full time after Pessah.

IDF prison riot ringleader gets 27 months

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Sergei Kaufman was sentenced yesterday to 27 months in prison plus a suspended sentence, for being a ringleader of the rebellion at Military Prison No. 6 last August.

Kaufman was the last of 18 soldiers tried for the mutiny and sentenced by the General Staff Military Court. He was convicted of establishing contact with the media and making threats against the guards who were taken hostage during the revolt.

Kaufman has been serving a three-and-a-half-year sentence for manslaughter, stealing a car, and reckless driving.

Provost-Marshal Brig.-Gen. Niram Goldbrum said the prison riot actually led to improvements in military prison conditions. "I think the event of August 1997 brought to general awareness that significant improvements had to be made," he said. He said the improvements were made in prison conditions both for prisoners and guards.



Civil defense drill

Pupils at the Yitzhak Rabin Elementary simulate dealing with casualties during yesterday's civil defense exercise at educational institution's nationwide. The exercise was organized by the Education Ministry and the IDF's Home Front Command, with the assistance of the police.

(Dan Oren/Israel Sun)

Military Police gets royal blue berets

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

"They came in pairs, at night, dogtrotting heavy-footed, clubs swinging silently, wherever soldiers ever lived. And the air of fear they carried with them went before them always, the Law." From *Here to Eternity*, James Jones.

As of this morning, military policemen will be donning royal blue berets as the IDF introduces its newest color headgear.

In an effort to boost its image as a kinder, gentler force, the Military Police gave up its white helmets almost nine years ago.

By getting their own the color beret, the corps joins, at least in appearance, crack IDF units.

"I think this will add pride to

military policemen and to the whole corps," said Provost-Marshal Brig.-Gen. Niram Goldbrum. "External symbols, you know, evoke a sense of pride."

Goldbrum said he has worked on getting the Military Police berets of its own color for over six years, until finally getting the approval from Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

"It puts us on the map. We are no different than the other corps," Goldbrum said.

The IDF now has nine different color berets.

Red for paratroopers, brown for Golan, purple for Givati, green for Nahal, turquoise for engineers, black for armor and artillery, light blue for air force, and khaki for the rest.

IDF trains soldiers to investigate cyber crimes

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Soldiers are being trained to investigate cyber crimes in the army, Col. Miki Barel, the head of the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division revealed yesterday.

"We are starting to see buds of this today, and we have to improve our capability of investigating cyber crimes," Barel said.

"We are preparing for future investigations in the field of computers in light of the fact that we expect computer-related crimes to

rise as the use of computers grows," he told military reporters.

Barel said IDF detectives are being trained in computer studies in order to better understand and investigate crimes linked with computers. He said that until soldiers on full-time duty are trained, cyber investigations will be done by reserve soldiers.

"We are preparing for it in order to deal with these situations in the most professional way we can," he said.

Barel said that stealing information is not under his division's

authority, but rather that of Field Security. Still, he said, his unit is expected to investigate any suspected information offense.

He said that the IDF still has not encountered any instances of fraud or misinformation being put into

IDF computers.

The meeting with the head of the Military Police Crimes Investigation Division represented one of the very few times Barel has met with the media. In a review of the division's activities, Barel said it

is witnessing a rise in drug-related crimes in the IDF. He said there was a 4 percent increase in suspected drug offenders, and that there were 16% more files opened on the matter last year compared to 1996.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Interrogation's over, questions arise

The end of a year-long judicial marathon, which may well go down in Israel's history as "a Russian mafia trial," has stirred much commentary in the Russian-language press.

A *Novosti Nedeli* editorial stressed that "this judicial agreement between prosecutors and the defendant was advantageous mainly to the prosecution, which was accused of using [Gregory] Lerner, [Zvi Ben-Ari], only to prove the 'existence of a Russian mafia'."

Now, after Ben-Ari, "everybody who even last week cried that Lerner is a modern-day Dreyfus should bite their tongues. Now in Jerusalem a trial has begun against an Israeli citizen who confessed to having committed crimes. It is not a trial against the Russian community."

Pointing out that Ben-Ari confessed to 13 counts of financial crimes and fraud, estimated at \$50 million, Efraim Ganor said in *Nasha Strana* that Lerner is no angel, but that such criminals "have already existed in Israel under the epithet of 'white-collar criminals,' yet they were not kept in a maximum security cell like Lerner."

The main question now is why

the prosecutors did not explain to the public what and whom they were talking about. Instead, the impression was created that Ben-Ari posed a threat to democracy. Ganor asks if the perpetrators of this image "considered the damage it would cause relations between Israelis and Russian immigrants."

Perhaps by chance, the end of the Ben-Ari investigations coincided with published official data that the level of criminality among Russian immigrants is significantly lower than the national average.

In *Vesti*, Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, remarking on this statement made by high police officials in a government setting, accused the Israeli media of having mounted a "very aggressive" campaign which "did much to create an erroneous image of Russian aliyah."

Journalists, using their own "sources" — namely the police — caused great damage to the image of immigrants from the CIS and their absorption process," he said.

Peace for Generations vs. Peace Now

Referring to Nahum Barnea's article in *Yediot Aharonot*, that there are more right-wingers than leftists among Israelis, Sofia Ron wrote in *Vesti* that there is a

strange configuration on the Israeli political map.

She said that "the people are on the Right, but the sources of financing are on the Left; therefore there is a lot of room for Left and non-partisan movements, such as Dor Shalom and Peace Now, whereas right-wing movements have to struggle to exist."

The movement Peace for Generations arose in 1994 in reaction to the Oslo Agreements. Its leader, British-born Daniel Yosef, of Tekoa, says, "We would like to promise peace with the Palestinians, but to have peace, you need two sides."

Movement activists collected many segments from Palestinian TV educational programs which proclaim "we will return to Jaffa and Lod."

In a series of such programs aimed at schoolchildren, the main subject is the liberation of all Palestine.

They praise suicide bombers and encourage viewers to follow their example. Ron cited many

such sample statements, like "Holy martyrs, we don't say good-bye; we'll meet in paradise."

A video with the most recent program was shown to a special US Senate committee, which is planning to demand that Washington stop financing PA television.

But in their own country, Peace for Generations can't counterbalance Peace Now.

The Israeli media sympathizes with the latter, publishing in detail many of its activities. Peace for Generations, according to Ron, has no access to Channel 1.

Ron concludes that "In Israel, children are taught about peace and concessions. Any other approach is considered politically incorrect. Whereas on PA educational TV, one can hear appeals to kill Jews."

He adds that "Peace for Generations is trying to respond to a wide public consensus behind the peace process, which is based on conceding to Arab demands."

ISRAEL'S BATTLE WITH THE WORLD

Moshe Raviv

Israel's former Ambassador in Britain speaks about his 40 years as a diplomat in an interview with

Amotz Asa-El, Associate Editor of the Jerusalem Post

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Ruth Matar interviews

Michael Kleiner - MK

Elyakim Ha'etzni - Former MK

Tonight, Wednesday, March 25, at 9:00 p.m.

Arutz 7 - English program, 97.3 FM radio (97.2 FM in Jerusalem)

This program was postponed because of stormy weather at sea, which prevented Arutz 7 from broadcasting last Wednesday evening.

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NEWS

in brief

Hendel petitions court against Oz Israel Prize

MK Zvi Hendel (NRP) has petitioned the High Court of Justice to order the education minister to withdraw the Israel Prize for Literature from Amos Oz. Hendel says that Oz is not worthy of the prize since he cast a slur on the settlers in an article written during the intifada.

Oz described the settlers at Sebastia as a "small sect, a closed and cruel messianic sect" in the article. He later said that he was referring to Meir Kahane and his followers, but Hendel said it had been an attempt to discredit all the settlers.

In his petition presented yesterday, Hendel cited the precedent of last year, when the court ruled that the Israel Prize committee should review its decision to grant the prize to journalist Shmuel Schnitzer, who allegedly had cast aspersions on the Ethiopian community in an article.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday that he "felt ill at ease" over the Oz article, but that he would await the court ruling. *Batsheva Tsor and Irit*

Hanegbi seeks legal advice on Derech Tzela

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has asked advocate Uri Wagman to advise him with regard to allegations concerning irregularities when he headed the non-profit association Derech Tzela. Army Radio reported yesterday. Police are due to begin investigating Hanegbi next week over the allegations that he used his position as head of the organization to receive funds and a car. Wagman represented Hanegbi during the Bar-On Affair. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Airlines concerned about '2000 bug'

American Airlines and KLM have already informed the Airports Authority that they will not fly to any destination, including Israel, on the night of December 31, 1999 in order to avoid any possible computer bug with the changeover to the new millennium.

David Oren, head of information and computerization at the authority, told the Knesset Science Committee's subcommittee on the "2000 Bug" that the only problem it has about software relates to the air control system. "We are due to get updates from the manufacturers in the US about this," he said. "In all other systems we ran simulations and found no problems we couldn't solve. By August 1998, we will finish checking our readiness for the year 2000." *Judy Siegel*



Helping the Jahalin

Members of Defense of Children International play with a Beduin boy yesterday outside Ma'aleh Adumim. Earlier, they handed out clothing to children of the Jahalin tribe to help compensate for the devastation of their encampment by last week's sand and rain storms. The 40-member organization, headed by an Israeli, Dr. Philip Veerman, has UN observer status. *(Nirzar Shorer)*

Itzik slams soft treatment of hackers

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset, which in 1995 passed a law setting a prison sentence for computer crimes, did not file a police complaint when its own Internet site was "hacked into" and changed a few weeks ago. Knesset Science and Technology Committee chairman MK Dalia Itzik, who learned this yesterday at a session on break-ins to computer systems via the Internet, said it illustrated the mistaken and forgiving view of Israeli society towards hackers.

The Knesset Internet department consulted with the legal adviser as to whether a complaint should be filed over the recent break-in - in which the hacker identified Ezer Weizman as "the best president Israel ever had," but he ruled against it.

Breaking into computer systems just for "fun" or for the "challenge" of it or to vandalize Web sites or profit from this is a crime just like breaking into a bank, said Itzik, whose opinion was echoed by many participants in the session. The meeting was observed by a few dozen teenagers, including computer expert Barak Raz, 19, who was invited to present his proposal for fighting computer crimes.

Raz, a Civil Guard volunteer about to join the army, urged the establishment of a "civil guard against computer crimes" comprised of volunteers who pass security clearance and monitor

hackers' activities. These could include computer engineers, software technicians, systems operators and young computer "freaks" who know what they're doing. Such a patrol would deter many hackers, as if caught, they could be prosecuted under the Computer Law, he said; the volunteers could also do intelligence work.

Israel Police investigations chief Cmdr. Yossi Sibon and the computer crimes investigation department head Ch.-Supt. Meir Zohar, who said they would look into this possibility, reported that only 35 official complaints regarding computer crimes had been filed during the last two years.

Tannenbaum had been due to appear before the committee, but Sibon said that since the teenager was currently under investigation and completely isolated at home, the police decided it would "not be proper" for him to go to the Knesset. Others in the audience suggested that having Tannenbaum there would give him the spotlight and glamorize his crime, as it would if a wife beater were invited to the Knesset to discuss the problem of family violence.

The Israel Police has in recent years trained dozens of computer experts and purchased special equipment to try to deal with this new type of white-collar crime. Nevertheless, not a single Israeli hacker or other computer criminal has been put into jail or punished since the law took effect.

Knesset goes into recess today

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset packs up today for the spring recess and is scheduled to return on May 4. The winter sitting, which started October 27, has been action-packed. Speaker Dan Tichon said yesterday. It was marked by the longest debate in Knesset history, the two-week discussions on the budget and economic arrangements bill.

There was drama, including the presidential elections earlier this month; paths, at the death of education minister and National Religious Party leader Zevulun

Hammer and the memorial service for Yitzhak Rabin; nostalgia in the form of a special Tu B'Shvat session addressed by former MKs; and the farewell to veteran Labor MK Moshe Shahal.

Despite the public impression of parliamentary laziness, Tichon said attendance by MKs was up and the House remained open and active even on the two days of snow.

Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) had a 100 percent attendance record. The MKs who participated in the most votes were Ruby Rivlin (Likud), Benny Elon (Moledet), Nissim Dahan (Shas),

Shevah Weiss (Labor), and Tamar Gozansky (Hadash).

The five MKs least seen in the House were former and current Labor leaders Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak, Aryeh Deri (Shas) (only 24 percent attendance), and Migdal Ha'emek Mayor Shaul Amur and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (both Likud).

Tichon noted that Gozansky was also the "champion speaker," addressing the plenum more than any other MK.

Based on the statistics and personal impression, Tichon decided Rivlin, Elon, Dahan, and Gozansky

were the "outstanding parliamentarians," this sitting.

Avraham Poraz (Shinui) has filed the greatest number of private members bills so far in the 14th Knesset.

The two new committees - Public Complaints and Science and Technology - have also taken root and generated public and media interest.

There has been a drop in the number of parliamentary questions routinely asked of ministers, but the "Question Time," introduced this sitting based on the British model has proved popular. Tichon said.

Free vote for MKs on amnesty

Coalition members will be given freedom to vote as they wish on the bills on general amnesty scheduled to come up today for a preliminary reading. The bills have been filed by Likud MKs Ze'ev Boim, Gideon Ezra and Haim Dayan.

Coalition whip Meir Sheerit said since the government has not taken an official stand, its MKs can vote according to conscience. Sheerit said he personally opposes granting a general amnesty for the jubilee and will vote against the bills.

The National Religious Party has announced that its MKs will vote against a general amnesty.

AT THE KNESSET

Agreements," he said. Levy said he would not support budget cuts in education but would study the budget to see where there is duplication and try to free funds for places where they are most needed such as for lowering the dropout rate, raising the percentage of students who matriculate and special education.

Exploiting foreign workers At a meeting yesterday of the Knesset Committee on Foreign Workers, Hanna Zohar of a workers' rights group called *Kav Le'Oved* presented figures which painted a depressing picture of exploitation. Zohar discussed the wages of Romanian worker Samion Sando. His gross salary through the "Perfect" personnel agency was NIS 6,039 a month, but after a series of deductions for various fees, ended up with only NIS 1,502.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Shalev said his ministry is in contact with the attorney general's office with the aim of doubling the fine for employers of illegal workers to NIS 100,000.

AIDS prostitute The oldest AIDS-carrying prostitute is giving up the world's oldest profession at age 75 years to move into an old age home in Tiberias. The woman worked without taking protective measures, in Tel Aviv's Rehov Allenby area. Following the intervention of the Knesset Public Complaints Committee, chaired by Rafi Elul (Labor), the Health Ministry has promised to house her and treat her in the senior citizens home. Her story was revealed at a committee meeting yesterday about HIV-positive prostitutes.

There is apparently a lack of current data about how many prostitutes are AIDS carriers. The most recent survey was taken in 1991 and it found that eight out of 200 prostitutes (including males), were HIV-positive.

Ethiopian olim in West Bank Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein yesterday praised the absorption efforts of settlements across the Green Line which have taken in Ethiopian immigrants.

He said that only 120 families have been moved to places like Ofra and Kedumim out of approximately 1,500 families who are meant to move there.

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt and MK Adisu Masala said the immigrants are sent to the West Bank communities against their will. Masala said he would act to try to have them housed inside the Green Line.

Visit to Syria

MK Azmi Bashara has refused to be questioned by the police about his visit to Syria in December. Bashara traveled without the permission of the Interior Ministry required for journeys to "enemy states." The police have asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon about questioning Bashara but he said he will not be questioned of his own free will and that the police would have to ask that his parliamentary immunity be lifted.

"My trip to Syria was exactly the type of political activity for which parliamentary immunity exists," Bashara said. "The investigation seems to be a political one aimed at deterring me and others from these steps. I don't know why the government is afraid of my visit to Syria."

Goldstein memorial

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday decided to forward for second and third reading the bill by MK Ravi Cohen (Meretz) banning the building of monuments to terrorists. The bill was motivated by the memorial site at Baruch Goldstein's grave but also applies to Arab terrorists.

It was agreed in the committee that although Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba cannot be moved because it is halachically not permitted to exhume the body for this, all the trappings of a memorial site there should be removed.

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Vatican to continue Shoah research

WJC official criticizes Church for not accepting more blame

By LISA PALMER-BILLIG

ROME — Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, and Dr. Gerhart Riegner, honorary vice president of the World Jewish Congress, opened the Vatican meeting of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee on Monday by placing the most controversial current issues on the table. These are: the Vatican's new document, "We Remember: Reflections on the Shoah," Pius XII; and the opening of the Vatican's World War II archives.

"We have taken note with great emotion of the act of repentance which you have expressed in this historic document," Riegner said.

However, he added, there are also "serious disappointments" as the document "avoids notably taking a position on the relationship between the teaching of contempt and the political and cultural climate that made the Shoah possible." Exempting "the church itself from any blame" by putting the responsibility on "individual Christians or 'the Christian world' ... is not acceptable," Riegner said.

After the document's virtues and failings were discussed by the 40 ILC delegates, Cassidy accepted Riegner's proposal to establish a joint bilateral working group to further research the Holocaust period of church history.

Cassidy attributed part of the controversy over the document to a theological misunder-

standing. In Catholic theology, "the church itself" is the pure and holy bride of Christ. It cannot be accused of sinning, while "individual Christians" can include "even high authorities, even popes," he explained.

"Not everyone in our church has fully absorbed that new spirit of mutual understanding, but for every failure," he said, "there are thousands of initiatives ... a desire for reconciliation ... growing understanding on the part of the Catholic Church for Jewish concerns."

Cassidy also asked whether "our Jewish friends ... are making the same kind of effort to understand the Catholic Church and its position on matters like abortion or responsibility for the Shoah."

A paper by Rabbi Leon Kleinkopf, the Anti-

Defamation League's interfaith director, on the Vatican's Holocaust document echoed the concerns expressed by many members of the Jewish delegation.

In the paper, Kleinkopf recalls that "it was in the heart of Christian civilization that the Crusades in the First Millennium started killing entire Jewish communities on the way to Jerusalem ... the imposition of yellow badges and special hats by Paul IV in 1555 and the compulsory living in ghettos are reminders ... [as are] the concentration of the Jewish population in the ghettos of Warsaw, Lodz and other cities in Poland, or Drancy in France."

"Indeed, the fact that the Shoah took place in Europe, the heart of Christianity, requires a reckoning of the soul!"

NEWS

in brief

Man held for attempting to kill wife

A resident of Hayogev, a moshav in the Jezreel Valley, is being held by police on suspicion that he attempted to kill his wife yesterday morning. The suspect allegedly fired his pistol at his wife, who managed to flee to a neighbor's house unharmed. The neighbor called police, and the husband fled, but was picked up later. The couple has apparently been having problems for some time. *Itim*

12 arrested in major drug bust

Police arrested 12 suspected drug dealers and confiscated 30 grams of Heroin during an operation in Jaffa early yesterday morning. Over 70 policemen and border policemen participated in the operation, which was planned after an undercover police agent spent three-and-a-half months working in Jaffa. During that period, he helped police confiscate 110 grams of heroin, ecstasy and other drugs. *Itim*

Drug dealer refused lighter sentence

The Supreme Court yesterday overturned an appeal by Ya'acov Korkin for a more lenient sentence in connection with a drug case. Korkin was sentenced to 20 years for "importing" more than 950 kilograms of cocaine from Columbia to Europe and to three years for using a forged passport. Korkin said he had been convicted on the basis of evidence against him from his former partner, who turned state-witness. *Itim*

Kibbutz leaders to meet US Jewish heads

Leaders of the three kibbutz movements, including Hakibbutz Hadaati, are to leave today for a 10-day tour of the US to meet with leaders of the Conservative and Reform movements. A spokesman said that tour was worked out following a series of meetings held by the three movements on pluralism and freedom of choice, with the understanding that the status quo on religion and state is no longer applicable and that new understandings had to be reached without legal compulsion. The purpose of the tour is to examine the possibility of setting up a joint body by the Conservative, Reform, and Orthodox movements which would function here to promote Jewish identity and education and aliya. *Haim Shapiro*

US Secretary for Health to visit in November

US Secretary for Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will visit in November to participate in a seminar on women's health in Jerusalem. She accepted the invitation from Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who met with her last week at the home of Ambassador to the US Elihu Ben-Elissar. Shalala, who was here early in the first Clinton administration, will head a delegation that will include senators and congressmen. *Judy Siegel*

Regional medical conference closes

The first regional conference on medical sciences of the Hebrew University and UNESCO, dedicated to a discussion of oxygen free radicals, concludes after three days today in Jerusalem and will move tomorrow to Amman for another two days.

Some 200 experts from Israel, the US, Japan, Germany, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority came here for deliberations on the charged particles, which are involved in the development of many diseases, from cancer and atherosclerosis to cataracts and diabetes. *Judy Siegel*

Sacha Elterman thanks Israelis for sympathy

Sacha Elterman, the 16-year-old Australian who is finally recovering in her Sydney home after being severely injured in last summer's Maccabiah bridge collapse, has sent a letter to Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery expressing her gratitude to Israelis for their support. During a recent visit to Australia, Tery sent her a warm letter, along with an album of Israeli stamps and the book *Artists Send Peace*. Elterman, who underwent many brain operations and struggled against death, wrote: "The kindness and generosity of the people of Israel throughout my ordeal has been overwhelming" and said she would "treasure [the gifts] always." *Judy Siegel*



Goodies for the IDF

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Brig.-Gen. (res.) Rami Dotan (right background), chairman of the Soldiers' Welfare Association, purchase the first of 15,000 food packages being donated to soldiers serving in the North, at a Supershuk Greenberg counter in Jerusalem yesterday. *(Isaac Harari)*

Germany issues arrest warrant for Smyrek

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A court in Hannover, Germany has issued an arrest warrant for Stefan Josef Smyrek, a tourist arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport in November on suspicion of being sent by Hizbullah to plan or carry out a suicide attack.

Smyrek's lawyer, Dan Assan, said in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday that the public prosecutor in Hannover also announced plans two days ago to prepare a request to have Smyrek extradited.

The statement from Hannover Magistrate's Court that a warrant was issued for Smyrek's arrest on March 19 accusing him of intending to carry out a terrorist attack here. It said that the public prosecutor in Hannover intends to ask the German authorities to compile an extradition request.

Smyrek, 26, from Braunschweig, was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport on November 28, after having arrived from Amsterdam.

He was indicted on December 25 on charges of conspiring with an enemy to carry out an attack, attempting to harm security, and membership in a terrorist group.

A three-judge panel in the Tel Aviv court, headed by Judge Amnon Strashnov, granted a request by Assan to delay the start of the trial until the first week in May, to give German authorities sufficient time to file an extradition request and for Israel to respond.

Tel Aviv Prosecutor Dvora Chen objected to the delay arguing that the request is based on a press release and that extradition is a lengthy process.

It was also the third time that the trial has been postponed. Assan, a member of various Israel-German organizations, said he thinks extraditing Smyrek would be in the best interests of both nations.

Comptroller finds irregularities with IEC

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The Israel Electric Corporation undertook in 1992 to reorganize its equipment department but failed to do so by mid-1997, the State Comptroller said.

The report on IEC activities found irregularities with the department, with regard to severance pay to senior workers and the hiring of an advisor on contract.

The corporation continued to buy equipment at unnecessarily

high prices from veteran suppliers because it did not put out tenders as often as required by law. Meanwhile, prices were dropping and considerable sums could have been saved, the report says.

The IEC also did not bother to try to lower prices quoted by contractors after giving them more work, the report says. There were big differences in the sums paid for similar work in different parts of the country, it adds.

Moreover, the IEC gave severance pay to eight senior workers

who retired before 65, going beyond what was permitted. In five cases, the payments were attributed to a need for reorganization, although no reorganization took place, the report adds.

Two workers who left voluntarily before retirement age also received enlarged severance payments. Three employees obtained special grants for which no reason was stated.

The IEC also appointed a member of the Labor Party's central committee as an advisor in 1994

at a salary of NIS 12,500, which was raised to NIS 14,700 three months later, with the addition of a car and other fringe benefits, the report says. Her job was defined as maintaining contacts with ministers, MKs and government authorities. The board chairperson said there was no reason to disqualify her because of her party affiliations. But the comptroller found that the position, which was new, should have been approved before someone was hired.

Bill would punish doctors who transplant trafficked organs

By JUDY SIEGEL

A bill that would allow the government to prosecute physicians who perform transplants that involve organs sold for a profit was approved yesterday by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation, paving the way for its first reading in the Knesset.

The Health Ministry has not found a way to prevent Israeli surgeons from doing this abroad. Prof. Zaki Shapira of the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus has been suspected of

carrying out such operations abroad but cannot be charged under the law.

The bill regulates the activities of the Israel Transplant Coordination Center and determines which live donors may give organs. Only relatives may give one of their kidneys or the lobe of a liver, except for rare cases in which non-related donors want to give an organ and are not paid to do so. This regulation has been in effect unofficially for a year, during which time four friends of recipients donated an organ.

Ministry Director-General Gaby Barabash said it would be used in rare cases, such as when the friend was together with the would-be recipient in the army and wanted to donate an organ to keep him alive. The ministry, he said, would perform rigorous checks to ensure that altruism was indeed involved, and that payments would not be handed over "under the table."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said yesterday that he will struggle to prevent the sale of organs for transplant.

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Good Ship Lollipop

The travel writer Paul Theroux took the idea that Tarzan was an expatriate and turned it into the title of a book.

"The realization that he is white in a black country, and respected for it, is the turning point in the expatriate's career. He can either forget it, or capitalize on it. Most choose the latter," he wrote.

Whether being white in Africa is still a basis for respect is dubious in the extreme. While "choosing to capitalize on it" may have produced the occasional Somerset Maugham, Lawrence Durrell or Paul Gauguin, more often it created the exploitation, white narcissism and brutality that reached its nadir in apartheid.

It seems Theroux's thesis might still work, if Tarzan is president of the United States and Jane is Hillary. The unprecedented scenes in Ghana on the first leg of the African tour could be explained only by the magical quality the Clintons seemed to sweep in to a continent that truly understands magic.

The Ghanaians were little interested in what Bill Clinton had to say. They wanted to see him, and if possible touch him.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

then by the silly Victorians' impulse to save and civilize them, while exploiting them.

The ideas live on in new mutations. Northerners were first shocked by the Africans' lack of "morality" because of their polygamy. Never mind that African social order and customs had been evolving along different paths than those in Europe for untold millennia. Just cover those lascivious female bosoms and do things the decent Christian way!

African women had always suckled their young for long periods — up to age three was common. During that period, they refrained from sex to maintain lactation, and the man turned his attention to other wives. While each man might father many children, each woman produced few, and raised them healthy with unhurried ease.

First missionaries, then Northern aid programs, halted polygamy. One wife took on the burdens of the many, disrupting the village social norms that were there for a reason. The number of children per mother went up, their nutrition went down and infant mortality soared. The interfering busybodies from the North thus raised the birth rate of Africans, but ensured that more of the children died.

Band-Aid

They even got a flash of the famous but rarely seen Clinton temper when he snarled at them to "back off, get back," as he saw people in danger of being crushed. This is foreign policy by bandwagon. The bandwagon may stall in the grim and muddy realities of Rwanda, but only briefly, for the Clintons are coming to places starved of modern celebrity, but neither ignorant of it, nor immune to it.

The Clintons and their 800-person entourage will sweep through six African states — line some later-day caravan of the Queen of Sheba on an odyssey to search for King Solomon's mines. There were no gold mines then, there may be few economic mines now.

Because of the Cold War, the media shorthand for dividing up the world became East and West. From Africa, the true division is North and South. In East and West, the rain have met at last, and are beginning to merge into some free-market uniformity. North and South co-exist in mutual incomprehension. The North remains mystified by the backwardness and isolation of Africans. Africa remains mystified by the glint and stupidity of the North.

It is pro-investment, but those steel-eyed businessmen in Clinton's caravan will be peering at Africa's resume and seeing low skills, poor education, non-existent health services, bad roads, no railways, bad water, bad transportation, no financial markets and an ocean of corruption. In Asia, or Eastern Europe, there's just corruption, without all the rest.

In 1975, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization heralded a "new era for Africa" with this announcement: "The FAO is featuring Shirley Temple-Black, the new US ambassador to Ghana, as Ceres, the Roman goddess of fertility, on a medal specially struck for the occasion."

Sorry Bill, it's a great tour, nice bandwagon, nice Band-Aids. But 23 years later, you're all still stuck on Shirley's Good Ship Lollipop, going nowhere.

Out of Africa

Bill Clinton's odyssey into the black continent fulfills a boyhood dream

By NICHOLAS KOTCH

KAMPALA — President Bill Clinton arrived in Uganda on Tuesday on the second leg of an African tour which is the most extensive by a serving US president on the continent and the fulfillment of a boyhood dream.

"I've always wanted to go (to Africa) ever since I was a boy," Clinton told reporters accompanying him on his six-nation tour.

Clinton, who flew in from Ghana, will hold talks on Tuesday with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a former revolutionary and guerrilla leader who is credited with transforming Uganda since he took power in 1986.

A broken economy is breathing steadily again, and the nightmare years of the 1970s, when former dictator Idi Amin was a byword for cruel and capricious leadership, are gone if not forgotten.

Clinton set the tone of his 12-day trip in a speech before an estimated 250,000 people packed into Ghana's Independence Square in the capital Accra — and came close to being overwhelmed by an overenthusiastic crowd.

He paid tribute to what he called the "new Africa" and preached the benefits of democracy, education, trade, peace and justice.

"Africans are being stirred by new hopes for democracy and peace and prosperity," he said, as he struggled with the unfamiliar tropical heat and humidity.

"We want to work with Africans to nurture democracy," he added. "Now, nations and individuals finally are free to seek a new world where democracy and peace and prosperity are not slogans, but the essence of a new Africa."

Clinton tempered his optimism about the spread of democracy in Africa with a reference to "military dictatorship in Nigeria" and cautioned that progress would be hard to achieve as long as violence continued in the continent.

Clinton and his wife, Hillary, spent just over 10 hours in Ghana before leaving for Uganda. They will also visit Rwanda, South



Clinton set the tone of his 12-day trip in a speech before an estimated 250,000 people packed into Ghana's Independence Square in the capital Accra — and came close to being overwhelmed by an overenthusiastic crowd. (AP)

Africa, Botswana and the former French colony of Senegal.

The trip offered Clinton a welcome break from the political hot-house that is Washington and its simmering sex scandal.

Clinton denies charges that he had a sexual affair with a former White House intern and urged her to lie about it under oath.

Ghana's President Jerry Rawlings, who at 50 has made the transition

from a radical firebrand shunned by Washington to an elected president and economic reformer, welcomed the Clintons to Africa.

The crowd roared its approval as Rawlings wrapped a colorful ceremonial "kenie" cloth around Clinton's shoulders.

Clinton walked down from the podium to greet the people.

The crowd, clamoring to shake his hand, surged forward, nearly

knocking over metal barriers, and Clinton, with a look of consternation on his face, waved his arm and cried: "Back up."

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said later Clinton had appealed for restraint "because he saw people in the front that were getting squeezed and he was trying to get people to back off a bit."

Ghana, gripped by its worst energy crisis since independence

from Britain in 1957, set a lot of store by Clinton's visit — during which the US agreed to underwrite a \$67 million deal for a floating power station.

Clinton said he hoped Americans would change their view of Africa as a continent prone to disease, famine and violence. "It is time for Americans to put a new Africa on our map," he added. (Reuters)

This stop Uganda

While saluting its economic recovery, Clinton is pushing for political pluralism in Kampala

By RANDALL MEKKELSEN

KAMPALA — US President Bill Clinton arrived in Uganda on Tuesday for a two-day visit likely to present him with the most sensitive diplomatic challenges of his sojourn in Africa.

Over the next two days, Clinton is expected to gently nudge President Yoweri Museveni towards opening up the country's "no-party" political system while saluting Uganda's economic recovery.

The real tricky part is the Uganda-Rwanda piece. Terrence Lyons, an Africa expert with the Brookings Institution, told reporters at a White House brief-

ing this month.

Today Clinton is expected to make a round trip by air to neighboring Rwanda to pay his respects to the estimated 800,000 victims of the ethnic genocide there in 1994.

He will not leave Kigali airport, apparently for security reasons, so Rwanda's government has hastily constructed a monument there to the genocide.

Later that day, Clinton and Museveni will host a summit of regional leaders in Entebbe, near the Ugandan capital, which is expected to end with a declaration of principles on governance issues.

Clinton set the tone of his 12-

day trip on Monday in a speech before an estimated 250,000 people in Ghana's capital Accra.

He paid tribute to what he called the "new Africa" and preached the benefits of democracy, education, trade, peace and justice.

While flying from Ghana to Uganda, Clinton spoke by telephone for about 30 minutes with Liberian President Charles Taylor, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Clinton also may telephone other African leaders whose countries he will bypass this trip, McCurry said.

Clinton was to hold a formal meeting later on Tuesday with

Museveni of Uganda. Clinton's visit also aims to highlight Uganda's economic growth, among the most robust in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been fuelled by privatization and a more stable exchange rate.

At a speech in a primary school on Tuesday in the village of Mukono outside Kampala, Clinton is to announce a cooperative program designed to aid education, McCurry said.

He will also visit the village of Wanyange, where he will highlight small-scale credit programs that have benefited Ugandan women.

Clinton will also take part in the summit meeting, which will

include two leaders whose relations with the US have been difficult — Kenya's and the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

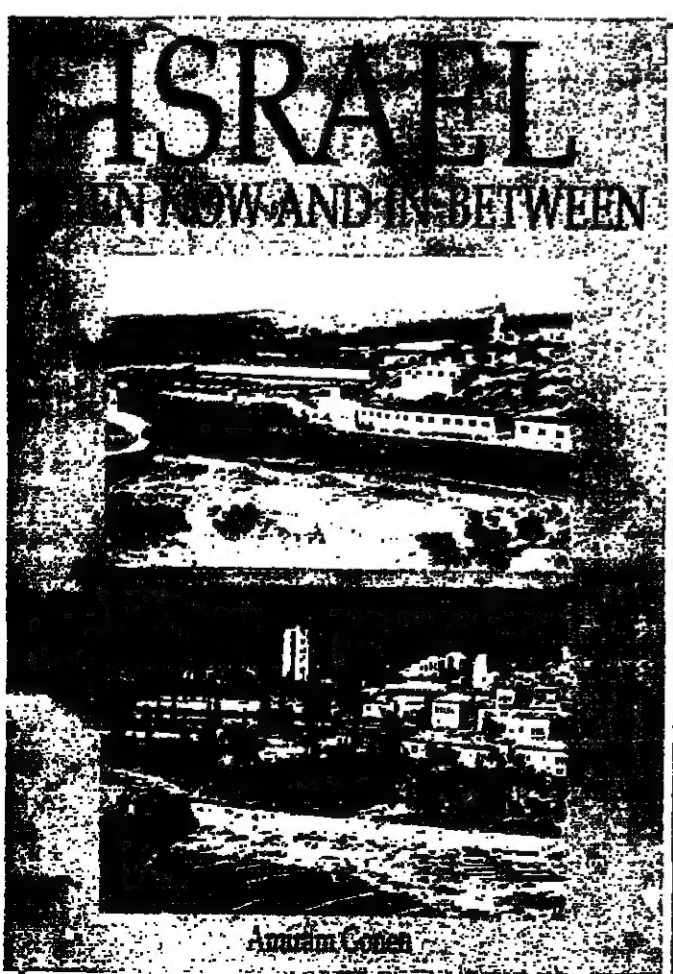
The United States has been concerned about the conduct of recent elections in Kenya and called for greater political openness, which has strained relations with Zaire.

Washington has also been eager for Kibaki to implement democratic institutions in the former Zaire since he ousted dictator Mobutu Sese Seko last year.

Among other participants at the summit will be the leaders of Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. (Reuters)

ISRAEL - THEN, NOW AND IN-BETWEEN

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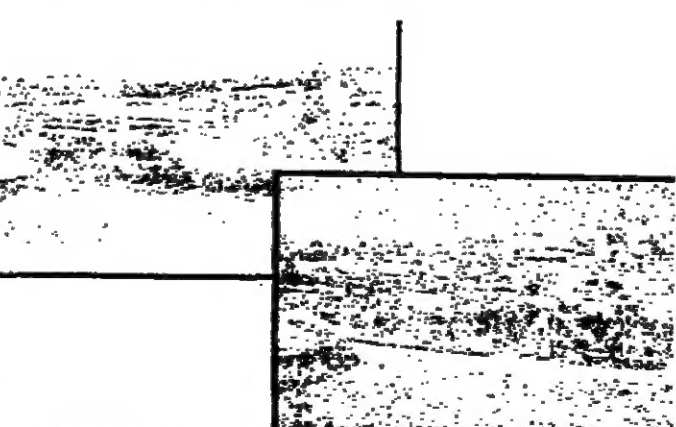


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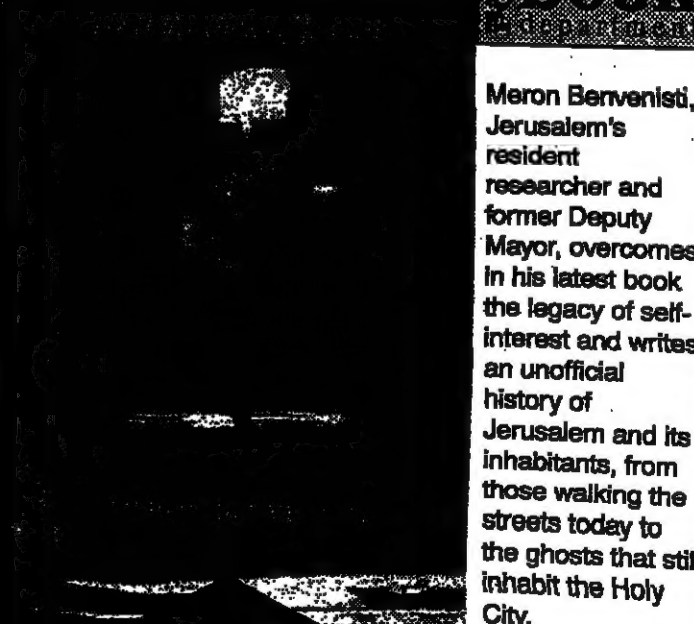
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The deal came just two days after a meeting of the six-power international contact group — the US, Russia, France, Germany, Italy and Britain — in Rome to

Turbulent French vote spells defeat for Le Pen

Far-right loses kingmaker's leverage after center-right forfeits Paris region

By BERNARD EDINGER

PARIS (Reuters) - Far-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen, for several days the kingmaker of French politics, was thwarted yesterday when the center-right preferred to lose control of the key Paris region rather than deal with him.

Le Pen had offered to back center-right parties in the race for the chairmanship of the Ile-de-France region, which includes the capital, if they backed his bid to become chairman of the Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur region.

The chairmanship of Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur would have given him unprecedented power

and created an earthquake in French politics.

Le Pen's anti-foreigner National Front threw the mainstream Right into crisis last week when five conservatives broke a taboo and tacitly accepted its help to win election as council chairmen in their regions.

The Front was kingmaker in those regions because of its 15.5 percent nationwide share of the vote in regional elections on March 15.

But Le Pen's bid for open deals was too much for the leaders of the center-right. President Jacques Chirac weighed in against him on Monday, publicly describing the

Front as racist, xenophobic and a danger to democracy.

Conservatives who might have otherwise backed Le Pen prevented his election in Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur, where Socialist Michel Vauzelle was elected chairman of the region, which includes the Riviera.

In the Paris vote early yesterday, conservative Dominique Versini preferred to stand down after two rounds, handing victory to Socialist Jean-Paul Huchon, than risk election with the support of the Front.

Huchon got the votes of 87 councilors elected on March 15 against 36 for National Front can-

didate Jean-Yves Le Gallou and three for ultra-leftist Arlette Laguiller.

The councilors from Versini's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the allied Union for French Democracy (UDF) did not vote.

It was the first time the Left had taken control of the Ile-de-France region.

An outraged Le Pen denounced Chirac, saying the president was "an infamous liar" who together with his allies "were probably the most immoral leaders France has ever known."

He said French conservatives were cowed by a left-wing politi-

cal correctness that "bends all politicians to its will as if they were hot spaghetti."

Clearly impressed by the changing tide, two of the five new conservative regional chairmen elected with National Front help resigned.

Another, former defense minister Charles Millon, the most influential politician to initially accept Le Pen's backing, penned a newspaper article on Monday denouncing him as being like a 1920s fascist.

Le Pen demanded Millon's resignation, saying he had been cheated.

"I feel we are losing sight of

things, I feel that passion has taken over from reason, I feel we risk harming France, its values and its image," Chirac said in his television address.

"The time has come to react," and it was time to defend French "liberty, equality and fraternity," he said.

Chirac also accused Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's left-wing coalition of fanning the Front debate to discredit the right-wing Jospin unexpectedly beat in last year's general election.

"It is not healthy to pour oil on the fire," he said, reminding the Left that they had introduced the proportional representation sys-

tem in the 1980s that enabled the Front to play such a key role in the regional elections this month.

Condemning RPR and UDF councilors who argued it was better to align with the Front than let regions fall to a coalition of Socialists, Communists and Greens, Chirac said: "I can only disapprove of those who preferred political games to the voice of their conscience."

Chirac said he would consult all mainstream parties to work out proposals to change French electoral laws, clearly seeking new ways to keep the National Front out of power.

Enigmatic reshuffle

BACKGROUND

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian newspapers yesterday offered wildly different versions of why President Boris Yeltsin fired his entire cabinet.

The suggested reasons ranged from manipulation of the Kremlin leader by financial tycoons to a simple bad mood. However, the newspapers mostly agreed that a complex knot of reasons was behind the dramatic decision.

"In his favorite manner, Yeltsin burst the political situation in the country," said the liberal daily *Nezavisimaya*. "Yeltsin's illness last week... assuming prime ministerial powers and promoting Sergei Kiriyenko provoked talk that the Kremlin's head is being manipulated."

Most newspapers, including the Communist *Pravda*, liberal *Sovodnya*, and tabloid *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, suggested that Sunday's "timely" return from Switzerland of influential tycoon Boris Berezovsky was probably not just a coincidence.

Upon his return Berezovsky, who is seen by many analysts as a powerful behind-the-scenes player in the Kremlin political game, gave a long television interview in which he spoke of a need for "new faces in the government" and of the unpopularity of the present team.

"The next day Yeltsin seemed just a man fulfilling all that Boris Abramovich Berezovsky told him the other night," *Moskovsky Komsomolets* said.

Many newspapers, radio and television channels in Russia belong to and represent the interests of big financial magnates.

"[Berezovsky's return] is just one of the possible reasons, there are a number of versions and each of them does not rule out the rest," said *Sovodnya*.

One, which also appeared in most newspapers, is that Yeltsin sacked the cabinet to prevent the opposition gaining ground, particularly during an all-Russia day of protest on April 9.

"The main slogan of the day of action was due to be 'Sack the anti-people government!'" *Sovodnya* said. "But the president... preferred to interfere himself and sacked the anti-people government."

The other is that Yeltsin cleared the way for fired premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to get ready for the presidential election in the year 2000.

The influential daily *Kommersant*, however, said Chernomyrdin's political career has ended. His political power base, one of the premier's closest, is too small. *Kommersant* said Chernomyrdin's recent public appearances and actions were too ambitious for Yeltsin, and ultimately cost him the job.

Another version is that Yeltsin decided to show his authority ahead of a summit in Moscow with the leaders of France and Germany.

"Too much attention has been paid to the president's health recently," *Sovodnya* said. "So he decided to remind the world and Russia who is the master. And he is a strong, decisive, and unpredictable master."

Yeltsin: Russia's foreign, defense chiefs to stay

By MARTIN MESSIKY

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin made it clear yesterday that he wants to keep his defense and foreign ministers, but otherwise seemed to be giving Acting Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko a free hand to select a new cabinet.

Yeltsin, asserting his authority after a week of illness, surprised Russia and the international community on Monday by discharging Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister and sacking the entire government. He was back in the Kremlin yesterday.

Russian newspapers, which these days reflect the views of their tycoon owners, predictably offered wildly different reasons for Yeltsin's decision to dump Chernomyrdin's team.

Yeltsin himself said the aim was to boost flagging reforms and sought to reassure markets and governments that foreign and economic policy would not change.

Yesterday, Yeltsin was back at work and apparently still on form, meeting his administration team for about an hour.

Russian news agencies quoted Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky as saying Yeltsin had praised Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

"This can be viewed as the president's wish that Primakov, and Sergeyev remain in their posts," the *Interfax* news agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

Agencies said Kiriyenko, a 35-year-old regional technocrat who entered government as a deputy energy minister just a year ago, had a number of meetings planned with parliamentary and faction leaders at the State Duma lower house.

The RIA news agency said Kiriyenko had moved into the office vacated by reformer Anatoly Chubais. Kiriyenko was named a first deputy prime minister in place of Chubais.

Kiriyenko, balding and bespectacled, said on Monday in a radio interview that Yeltsin had given him a free hand to assemble candidates for a new government, but the president would make the final decision.

Other ministers in addition to



Acting Russian Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko (center right) chairs an interim-government session in Moscow yesterday. The 35-year-old former energy minister said it would take him a week to form a new cabinet. (AP)

Primakov and Sergeyev are expected to keep their places in a new team, yet to be named, which Yeltsin said must act more decisively to revive Russia's reforms and make them more tangible for ordinary people.

The fate of the government's other star reformer, first deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov, remains unclear.

Chernomyrdin's office at the imposing riverside White House government headquarters stood empty. The veteran former prime minister, who now faces an uphill struggle if he wants to make a bid for the presidency in 2000, planned to pay a farewell visit later yesterday, agencies said.

A Kremlin spokesman confirmed

Yeltsin had met Sergeyev and Nikolai Kovalyov, head of the FSB domestic intelligence service, on Monday, soon after dismissing the government.

By meeting Sergeyev in the Kremlin before returning to his Gorky-9 residence on Monday, the president had already underscored his support for the defense minister

and his vital task of reforming the demoralized armed forces.

Kovalyov's FSB is one of the successor bodies to the Soviet-era KGB security police and is part of the Kremlin's "power ministry" triumvirate combining defense, intelligence, and the interior.

Apart from Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin singled out only two ministers who

would not be retained in the new cabinet. One was Chubais and the other was the hard-line interior minister, Anatoly Kulikov.

Sergeyev recently criticized Kulikov for opposing plans to create all-professional armed forces to replace conscription.

The Interior Ministry has more than 200,000 of its own troops.

UK government plays down Iraq anthrax scare

By JOHN MORRISON

LONDON (Reuters) - The government told Britons not to panic yesterday after it confirmed intelligence warnings of a possible Iraqi anthrax attack but stressed there was no imminent or specific threat towards Britain.

"It is right to take sensible measures. But it is unnecessary to be alarmed," Home Secretary Jack Straw told parliament.

Straw said a number of countries had received information about possible Iraqi threats to smuggle anthrax - a deadly poison which Baghdad is known to have produced.

"But our information is that there is no specific threat to the UK. There is no evidence to indicate that any attempt has actually been made to smuggle anthrax into this country. There is also no evidence that such an attempt at smuggling might be in prospect," he said.

Iraq yesterday denied it planned to send anthrax to Britain, with a spokesman dismissing the reports as "silly and

baseless." A spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said that "in an ideal world" the information would not have been made public.

"It's not the first time we have heard this sort of thing," he said.

The government confirmed late on Monday it had placed its ports on alert for Iraqi chemical weapons after intelligence sources warned of a plot to smuggle anthrax in duty-free bottles of perfume and alcohol.

News of the alert was broken by *The Sun* tabloid paper, which said one teaspoonful of anthrax could wipe out 100 million people.

The Sun said Saddam planned to target "hostile countries" including the United States and other NATO members as revenge for any military strikes.

The United States and Britain pulled back from threatened strikes against Baghdad in January after an agreement to grant UN arms inspectors unfettered access to sites in Iraq suspected of producing weapons of mass destruction like anthrax.

Straw reassured the House of Commons that Britain had the means to deal swiftly with the consequences of terrorism, including chemical and biological threats.

He revealed that Britain was currently hosting a European Union seminar of experts on chemical and biological terrorism.

The all-ports warning advised

officials to be on alert for anything that could contain the anthrax virus.

"Iraq may launch chemical and biological attack using material disguised as harmless fluids. Could officers therefore be alert for any items which might contain harmful substances," the Home Office warning said.

"Attention should be given to containers of any size containing

liquids with specific characteristics," it said.

While taking the threat seriously, British officials have always

assumed that Saddam would not risk using chemical or biological weapons against the West for fear of massive retaliation.

Milosevic allows Albanian-language schools

By KURT SCHORK

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) - Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has tackled a major grievance of the Kosovo region's restive ethnic Albanians with an agreement that promises them state education in their own language.

The deal came just two days before a meeting of the six-power international contact group - the US, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, and Britain - in Bonn to

decide whether or not to impose fresh sanctions against Belgrade.

Still, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Milosevic has failed to meet key demands by major powers on Kosovo and that pressure on him must be maintained.

"Belgrade is still ignoring the Contact Group's key demands. Serbian security police are digging in, not pulling out... we will need to maintain credible pressure on Belgrade to end repression and restore autonomy [in Kosovo]," Cook said in a statement.

Albright told a news conference.

The European Union, however, welcomed Monday's deal and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said the challenge now is to translate the deal into "action and concrete results."

"The Union will study the arrangements which have been negotiated and remains willing to provide support to a fair agreement acceptable to both sides," Cook said in a statement.

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Britain's melting-pot challenge

By WILLIAM D. MONTALBANO

LONDON - The Empire came home to Britain on a cold June morning in 1948. Docking in London, the S.S. Empire Windrush delivered 500 passengers from Jamaica, black men in suits carrying British passports and hungry for waiting jobs. For the first time, large numbers of people who weren't white had arrived to live and work among the British at home.

Fast forward to 1998. The Royal Navy, for centuries the guarantor of an empire on which the sun never set, is conferring with friendly navies of Turkey and Pakistan: How do they adapt uniforms to permit use of Muslim head scarves by female officers?

In half a century, the face, taste, texture and self-perception of Britain have changed strikingly and irreversibly with the oft-touted rise of a multiethnic society. Following blacks from the Caribbean came Africans, displaced Indians from East Africa and Asian immigrants from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Now Britain is taking a hard new look at its new-look society. Government, public institutions, businesses and everyday people are trying, often belatedly, to catch

up with breathtaking change.

Jarring incidents and dissenting voices provide a counterpoint to multiracial growth. But from Parliament to city streets, adapting to dazzling multiethnic reality has become a key priority for Britain.

The reasons are manifest: 50 years after Windrush, more than half a million blacks live in London. And across an officially Protestant country, there are mosques in every major city and as many Moslems, 1.3 million, as there are Methodists.

"The situation is clearly better than even five years ago. We are working hard to maintain that streak of goodwill within society," says Herman Ouseley, chairman of the government's Commission for Racial Equality. "We are on the right track, but momentum is important. There are still high levels of unemployment, racism, prejudice. Despite greater sensitivities, some people are not prepared to accept a multi-racial society."

Today, one Londoner in five is a member of an ethnic minority. Nationwide, minorities total about 3 million, or about 5.5 percent of the population.

On the surface, races seem to mix more easily in Britain than in the US, but there are still racist barriers, say activists such as

Simon de Banya, a British-born son of African parents.

"In America, racism is overt. You know how to deal with it; you can be better prepared. Here it is very covert, but very institutionalized," says de Banya, who lived for several years in New York and who now heads the 1990 Trust, a black think tank. "The official line is that this is a multicultural country, but I think blacks are more tolerated than they are integrated."

Still, racism that might once have gone unchecked increasingly finds its way into courtrooms and onto front pages. This month, a new inquiry opened into the 1994 killing in London of black teenager Stephen Lawrence. Five white youths have been publicly accused but never tried. The Lawrence case, which police were shown to have investigated poorly, has become a symbol of racism - and of the need for redress.

If racism remains a fact of daily life, and poverty and unemployment shadow ethnic communities, new Britain is also home to economic success, social progress and degrees of integration that might surprise many Americans.

In London, particularly, black-white partnerships are common, and the number of children of

mixed parentage is rising sharply, according to the racial equality commission. Responding to a national survey on ethnic minorities last year, 74% of British whites said they wouldn't mind if a close relative married a black; 70% had no objection to marriage with an Asian.

In half a century, Britain's face, taste, texture and self-perception have changed strikingly and irreversibly with the oft-touted rise of a multiethnic society

In January, a blue-ribbon commission launched the biggest study of multiethnicity ever undertaken in Britain. Its goal: to formulate policies that can better adapt social and political institutions to the changing nature of the population.

Such long-term initiatives are accompanied by here-and-now calls for reforms. The Trades Union Congress, an umbrella

group for Britain's unions, is formally demanding better pay, more jobs and quicker promotions for minority workers. It wants an end to the racial abuse that 29% of minority workers tell their unions they have suffered at work.

The British police and the armed forces - long seen by blacks as bastions of institutionalized racism - are vigorously recruiting minorities. The BBC has just concluded a major reform to better reflect minorities in everything from recruiting to programming. The civil service and the professions are changing as well: Asian students already make up 50% of the student body at some medical schools.

Recently, Moslem private schools won government funding for the first time, putting them on a par with Christian and Jewish schools. More than ever, ethnic food, music and fashion are part of British life. London clubs rock with bhangra, which, rhythm under rhyming, draws on classic Hindi and Punjabi music blended with hip-hop, reggae and techno.

Overall, Britain is 94.5% white, but it would be hard to find a village without its Indian and Chinese takeout restaurants, or a village school without the restaurant owners' children. "When I came 30 years ago, the

smell of our food - curry - discriminated against us. We couldn't rent flats," said Jatinder Verma, who runs an intercultural theater company. "Today, curry is the national diet."

Early Caribbean immigrants were blue-collar workers whose descendants are still vital to the running of London's subways and double-decker buses. Today, there is scarcely a neighborhood without a corner grocery shop run by an Asian family living upstairs.

Ethnic minorities contribute 12% of students on British university campuses, more than twice their proportion in the population.

Individually and collectively, minorities are leaving an indelible mark. Among Britain's best writers, Salman Rushdie is of Indian origin and V.S. Naipaul is of Indian descent but came from the West Indies.

Trevor McDonald, the nation's favorite TV newscaster, is a black man from Trinidad. Rund Gullit, the people's favorite soccer manager, is a black man from Holland. London-born model Naomi Campbell's model mother hails from Jamaica. Nine members of the House of Commons boast Caribbean or African roots.

Economist-philosopher Amartya Sen, 64, born in

Bangladesh, where his father and grandfather were professors at Dhaka University, was lured home from Harvard recently to head Trinity College in Cambridge, his alma mater and one of the nation's most distinguished centers of learning. Another British Asian, Swraj Paul, owner of a steel empire, is one of 300 minority millionaires in the country and one of Britain's 500 richest people.

One fruit of a society reinventing itself is a new-breed Brit who is emerging within it.

"I can be a fully paid-up member of Britain and still have deep ties to other countries," says Meera Syal, who writes for and performs in "Goodness Gracious Me!" - a prime-time TV satire by British Asians about British Asians. "I will never be just British, but I am a British-born Indian."

Says actor Colin Salmon, a black actor who plays the secret service chief of staff in the latest James Bond movie, "I'm a Cockney born in the East End of London. English, African, Caribbean. I celebrate my complexity. That's what we all have to do here."

The writer, who was the Los Angeles Times London bureau chief, died March 19.

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James Cameron holds up the Oscar he won for best director for 'Titanic.' The movie equaled the record set by 'Ben Hur' in 1959.

'Titanic' ties record, wins 11 Oscars

By PATRICK GOLDSTEIN

It was a night to remember for *Titanic*. The epic drama about two lovers aboard the ill-fated 1912 luxury liner continued its passage into film history by winning best picture at Monday night's 70th annual Academy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium.

The film, which recently supplanted *Star Wars* as the highest-grossing film in Hollywood history, earned 11 Oscars, tying 1959's *Ben Hur* as the most honored film in Oscar history. *Titanic's* Oscar haul included best picture, best director, best editing, best sound, costume design, and art direction, as well as a best director

Oscar for James Cameron. Cameron has enjoyed box-office success with *Aliens*, the two *Terminator* movies and *True Lies*, but had never received a nomination for his work. Monday night, he also shared an Oscar for best editing, the first time a director has won in both categories.

The Oscar wins represented an emotional triumph for Cameron, whose name was repeated like a mantra in thank-you speeches over the course of the evening. His three-hour-plus film had been a subject of considerable second-guessing and controversy, especially when its \$200 million budget appeared to have killed any chance of the film making its money back

for 20th Century Fox and Paramount Pictures, the two studios that co-financed the picture.

The one area where *Titanic* hit an iceberg was in the acting categories. In what was clearly a popular victory, Jack Nicholson won best actor for his prickly comic performance in the James L. Brooks film, *As Good as It Gets*. This was the third Oscar for the eleven-time nominee, who previously won best actor for 1975's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and best supporting actor for Brooks' 1983 film, *Terms of Endearment*. Nicholson's co-star, Helen Hunt, won best actress for her portrayal of a harried single mother who

develops an emotional relationship with an eccentric writer, played by Nicholson.

Hunt, winner of two Emmys for her comic role in the TV series, *Mad About You*, won out over four British actresses, including Golden Globe winner Judi Dench, normally favorites with the Academy. "Good Will Hunting," which had been touted as a possible best picture dark horse, wasn't shut out entirely. Childhood friends Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, 27 and 25, won original screenplay for the emotional drama about a blue-collar math wizard's struggle to make peace with his own genius. Best supporting actor went to Robin Williams,

as the therapist trying to help Damon.

Critics darling "L.A. Confidential" also picked up two statuettes. Director Curtis Hanson and Brian Koppelman won for best adapted screenplay. And Kim Basinger received supporting actress for her role in *L.A. Confidential*, playing a high-class call girl who resembled '40s femme fatale Veronica Lake. She beat out sentimental favorite Gloria Stuart, the 87-year-old actress who played Old Rose in *Titanic*.

The *Full Monty*, the evening's underdog contender, only won an Oscar for Anne Dudley's original musical or comedy score. (Los Angeles Times)

The winners

BEST PICTURE: *Titanic*
DIRECTOR: James Cameron, *Titanic*
ACTOR: Jack Nicholson, *As Good as It Gets*
ACTRESS: Helen Hunt, *As Good as It Gets*
SCREENPLAY: (written directly for the screen): Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, *Good Will Hunting*
SCREENPLAY: (based on material previously produced or published): Brian Koppelman and Curtis Hanson, *L.A. Confidential*
SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Kim Basinger, *L.A. Confidential*
SUPPORTING ACTOR: Robin Williams, *Good Will Hunting*
FILM EDITING: *Titanic*
ORIGINAL SONG: "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic*, James Horner and Will Jennings
ORIGINAL DRAMATIC SCORE: *Titanic*, James Horner
ORIGINAL MUSICAL OR COMEDY SCORE: *The Full Monty*, Anne Dudley
ART DIRECTION: *Titanic*
CINEMATOGRAPHY: *Titanic*
VISUAL EFFECTS: *Titanic*
COSTUME: *Titanic*
SOUND EFFECTS EDITING: *Titanic*
SOUND: *Titanic*
MAKEUP: *Men in Black*
FOREIGN FILM: *Character*, The Netherlands
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE: *The Long Way Home*
DOCUMENTARY (short subject): *A Story of Healing*
LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM: *Visas and Virtue*
ANIMATED SHORT FILM: *Geri's Game*
HONORARY AWARD: Director Stanley Donen
GORDON E. SAWYER AWARD: Don Iwerks, for accomplishments in the field of motion picture science and technology
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AWARD: Gunmar P. Michelson, developer of an advanced electronic light valve for machines that strike movie prints (AP)



Kim Basinger, Robin Williams, Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson enjoy their success. (Reuters)

Korsantiya not fazed by bloody keyboard

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto has been described in numerous ways, but no one ever deemed it a bloody concerto. But on Monday evening at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Georgian pianist Alexander Korsantiya had to stop his performance after the second movement, as one of his nails broke and blood was dripping on the keys.

After a few minutes of anguish he left the stage, returning after a brief pause with a bandage on his finger and completed the performance, to the audience's enthusiastic applause.

After the concert, when friends inquired if he was all right, he shook it all very courageously, almost nonchalantly, saying, "At least I was able to complete the concert."

This is Korsantiya's official IPO, but it is not really his first time he has played with the orchestra.

Three years ago he performed with the IPO during the final stage of the Eighth International Artur Schnabel Piano Master Competition, which he won.

Now he is in Tel Aviv again and, by mere coincidence, at the time when the Ninth



Alexander Korsantiya

Rubinstein Competition is taking place. Despite the fact that he is very interested in what happens at the competition,

Korsantiya avoids going to it.

"I'm keeping my distance. If I go, I might increase or decrease the luck of some performers. I have friends competing here, and I think that my presence could do more harm than good. Besides, I do not have much time; I'm very busy with my IPO concerts."

Korsantiya has some sound advice for the eventual winner of the competition.

"We all know how important competitions are. I myself have participated in quite a few. While winning is the most important thing when you are competing, once the competition is over, your goal changes. Winning is just the first stage in the hard road to success. At the end of the competition, of course, everybody loves you and everything seems so accessible to you, but you must keep it all in perspective because only years after will you see if you are on the right path."

In retrospect, he adds, he can say that he was not ready for the first prize he won at the 1988 competition in Sydney. "The Rubinstein Competition was a different story altogether. Now I feel that I can take responsibility for my career."

The Georgian pianist, who makes his home in the US, also has advice for the

many pianists who will not win the competition.

"Not succeeding at some stage in life is painful but you can't, you must not, escape it. However, you should benefit from everything you do and there is no reason to regret. The most important thing is not to blame the judges or the stories about backstage mafia, even though we know there is some truth to them. You simply have to take it as it is and go to the next stage in life with strength and conviction."

For Korsantiya, the Rubinstein award resulted in numerous projects with Israeli orchestras, probably more than any past winner of this competition.

This summer he will conduct master classes in Galilee, and next season he has concert dates with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, including international tours with both.

Alexander Korsantiya plays Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto with the IPO tonight and Saturday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30, except 9 on Saturday).

The things they said

I'm the king of the world!

— *Titanic* filmmaker James Cameron, quoting a line from the movie after picking up his Oscar for best director
 For my daughter, Josephine, who's five years old, watching at home: Honey, this is the thing I described to you. It's called an Oscar and it's really cool to get.

— Cameron

I can't act and I can't compose and I can't do visual effects. I guess that's why I'm producing.
 — *Titanic* co-producer Jon Landau

What a shock.

— Madonna, drolly announcing yet another *Titanic* Oscar, this one for best original song

I've had a sinking feeling all night right up to here.

— Best actor winner Jack Nicholson, referring to the night's big film, *Titanic*

I just want to thank everybody I ever met in my entire life.

— Best supporting actress Kim Basinger

And most of all, I want to thank my father up there, the man who when I said I wanted to be an actor, said, "Wonderful, just have a backup profession like welding."

— Robin Williams, accepting the best supporting actor award

Thank you, Ben and Matt. I still want to see some ID.

— Williams, joking about his young *Good Will Hunting* co-stars, Ben Affleck and Matt Damon

It's the Golden Dede. I've been here three times before and lost. My odds for winning were about the same as the Jamaican bobsled team winning.

— Williams backstage

Heaven, I'm in heaven.

— A dancing Stanley Donen, singing a few words from "Cheek to Cheek" as he accepts an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement. Donen directed or co-directed such classic musicals as *Singin' in the Rain*, *On the Town* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

So much has changed in the last year. A year ago, the *White House* was complaining that there was too much sex in Hollywood.

— Oscar host Billy Crystal

That clip cost \$15 million.

— Crystal, commenting on a brief segment from *Titanic*, which cost a record \$200 million to make

It's been a great night. We're all tired. Matt Damon just hit on Shirley Temple.

— Crystal, wrapping up the telecast (AP)

Wiesenthal film captures award

By DAVID GEFEN

The *Long Way Home*, which won the Oscar for best documentary feature, was written and directed by Professor Mark Jonathan Harris and produced by the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Harris graduated from Harvard magna cum laude and began a writing/directing career in the 1960s. In 1968 he won an Oscar for his documentary on the redwood trees of the West Coast. He has taught at the USC film school for over 20 years, and his students form the core of the production ranks in Hollywood today.

When the new Skirball Center of the Hebrew Union College was being built in Los Angeles, Harris was asked to submit a proposal for a film on American Jewry today. His proposal was not accepted, but he began to gravitate back to his Jewish roots.

Rabbi Marvin Hier approached Harris about directing and writing *The Long Way Home*. At first, Harris did not think there was enough material to make a film on the period from the opening of the concentration camps in 1945 until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. As he continued his research, he came to realize that there was no film which adequately

covered this significant period.

The *Long Way Home* premiered at the Sundance Festival in Utah in the spring of 1997, receiving rave reviews from the *New York Times* film critic, Janet Maslin. After several benefit showings for the Wiesenthal Center in different parts of the US, the film opened commercially in New York and Los Angeles last fall. Other showings were in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit and, most recently, a two-week run in Miami Beach with standing-room crowds.

Temple Israel of Scranton has been the only synagogue to show the film.

It was screened there on the Sunday between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in October 1997. Over 400 people attended the two showings, including the bishop of Scranton, the president of the University of Scranton, a Jesuit institution, and other leading communal figures. The film will be screened there again in May.

As a result of this film, Harris was commissioned to write and direct the official film for Israel's 50th anniversary. For the last year he has worked diligently and persistently on it.

The *Long Way Home* will premiere at the Jerusalem Theater on April 27, 1998.

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Yeltsin's surprise

Russian President Boris Yeltsin did not get to where he is by being cautious. Thought to be near death both physically and politically, Yeltsin has surprised even those who have come to expect surprises from the mercurial leader. The summary dismissal of the entire cabinet, including Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, shows that Yeltsin is still the boss, but not whether Russia's democratic evolution will be helped or hindered.

When Mikhail Gorbachev was the toast of the West and glasnost became a household word, Boris Yeltsin was widely dismissed as a charming buffoon.

Yet it was Yeltsin, a life-long communist bureaucrat, who dramatically quit the party and transformed himself into the leader of Russia's radical reformers, and was elected Russia's first post-communist president.

On his climb to the top, Yeltsin developed a pattern of overcoming obstacles, not by slowing down, but by stepping on the gas. In his first two years in office, Yeltsin fired two prime ministers, Ivan Silayev and Yegor Gaidar, before settling on Viktor Chernomyrdin in 1992.

Chernomyrdin, as former head of the Soviet energy conglomerate Gazprom, represented a bridge between the huge remnants of the over-concentrated Soviet economy, and the young reformers seeking to break things up.

Chernomyrdin's tenure marked a period of slow but steady reform. Yeltsin and his prime minister both rode astride the tension between the oligarchs and the reformers, not letting either get their way completely. As a result, Russia has become something like the Wild West, where the rush is on not so much for gold as for the heights of the chaotic economy.

Along the way, the millions of people who still depend on the government and its companies have not seen the benefits of reforms, and many are not even receiving their wages. Yeltsin may have decided to fire the cabinet in order to preempt a no-confidence motion from the communist and nationalist-dominated parliament. This same parliament, of course, must confirm Yeltsin's choice for prime minister, thereby making it unlikely that Yeltsin will be able to appoint an outspoken reformer to the post.

It is unclear, in fact, where the reformers stand in the wake of Chernomyrdin's ouster. The two ministers considered to favor the most aggressive economic reforms are First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov and First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anatoly Chubais, both of whom were recently demoted by Yeltsin. But Yeltsin's choice as acting prime

minister was Sergei Kirienko, the 35-year-old minister of energy who is also considered an ally of Nemtsov.

Yeltsin is clearly trying to signal to the international community that the mass sacking of the cabinet is not an end to reforms. Most observers believe that Yeltsin will try to continue the balancing act between oligarchs and reformers that characterized the Chernomyrdin years, but with a somewhat revitalized cabinet. There is, however, an outside chance that the reported tapping of Kirienko to present a new cabinet signals that Yeltsin is abandoning the "balanced" approach, in favor of administering the sometimes painful medicine of reform more quickly.

There is a limit, however, to how much such modern-day Kremlinology is really predicative. As important as it is, the significance of the Russian central government, in whatever configuration, tends to be exaggerated. Even the most reformist government cannot change the fact that 70 years of communism all but destroyed certain social mores that are taken for granted in the West: a basic respect for the rule of law and for the idea that the government exists to serve the people. These ideals are certainly not observed perfectly anywhere, but the task of building them from scratch after generations learned to live with the opposite should not be underestimated.

The difficulties facing any Russian government should be kept in mind when facing the current problem of Russian missile technology flowing to Iran.

So far, both Israel and the United States do not believe that Russia is making "100 percent" effort to deal with the problem. But even if the government were making such an effort, this would only go as far as the wit of the government does generally, which may not be far enough.

The fact that world leaders reacted with a certain detachment toward the cabinet shakeup is testimony to both the stability and instability of the Russian situation. On the one hand, most observers believe that, regardless of the legislative power of the communists, communism cannot be reconstructed and a muddled reform process will continue. On the other hand, these same observers should realize that whatever progress has been achieved is fragile and can fall apart in the blink of an eye.

Israel, which has benefited from the Russian export of people and is, at the same time, endangered by its export of weapons technology, must watch developments closely and without illusions.



The real problem

MOSHE ZAK

President Clinton doesn't need to make an official announcement of the American bridging proposal between the positions of Israel and the Palestinian Authority on an IDF withdrawal in Judea and Samaria.

The damage has already been done: The Palestinians already know the Clinton administration's position, and they see it as a kind of certificate of exemption from direct bilateral negotiation with Israel.

The Syrians are using the same technique. In the past Assad was asked a hypothetical question by the American secretary of state: Assuming that Israel agrees to withdraw to the June 4, 1967, borders, will Syria be willing to promise certain security arrangements, or a gradual withdrawal, in return?

Assad didn't agree to these conditions, but now he is asking for Israeli agreement to total withdrawal, on the basis of the conditions in the hypothetical question, as the starting point for the resumption of the talks. This demand blocks the resumption of negotiations with Damascus, and even interferes with a settlement in Lebanon.

Although the government has focused its claims on the question of the 4% gap between its proposal and the US proposal, this emphasis is mistaken. The real problem is something else: creating a precedent that is liable to destroy the doctrine of direct bilateral negotiation which has been at the root of Israel's foreign policy for half a century.

True, the American document proposes that during the 12 weeks of the withdrawal negotiations between the two sides on the permanent settlement should resume, but what negotiations can succeed after Arafat has made up his mind that he doesn't have to make any compromise with Israel?

All he has to do is dig in, refuse to meet the prime minister of Israel, and create an atmosphere of imminent eruption. Then the Americans will make a proposal of their own, assuming that Israel won't be able to refuse it without coming into conflict with the US.

Dennis Ross, who authored the document, composed a similar clause in January 1997 in a document used as the basis for the Hebron Agreement. In it, too, the PA committed to stop all acts of incitement and provocation against Israel. And what happened then?

Not only did Arafat's Fatah organization arrange demonstrations including the burning of Israeli flags, but even the official Palestinian representative at the UN agencies in Geneva submitted protests against Israel which led to rioting in the Palestinian streets.

One of the allegations was that Israel had infected 300 Palestinian children with AIDS. Under pressure from the chairman of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Palestinian representative Nabil Ramlawi was compelled to apologize and withdraw his complaints, but the apology wasn't reported in the Arab and Palestinian press.

Now Ross is revising the commitment to prevent incitement, and has added an operative clause: "The Palestinian Authority and Israel will establish a joint committee to investigate cases of incitement."

Another promise, another committee.

TO be sure, the American document is better for Israel than the document prepared by the European Union. I would not rule out the possibility that the Americans asked Britain to put forward extreme demands on Israel, including stopping con-

struction in Jerusalem and preventing the expansion of settlements, in order to draw attention to the fact that the US isn't pressuring Israel on such sensitive issues as Jerusalem and the settlements.

But let us not forget that what we have seen is only a draft. The Americans may add requirements and clarifications to one side or the other, beyond what appears in the bridging proposal. These may include a sudden American clarification on the settlements, or perhaps on construction in Jerusalem.

The extent of the IDF withdrawal in Judea and Samaria, in other words the gap between the percentage suggested by the government and that suggested by the Americans, will not bring down the government.

On the other hand, if the prime minister can't promise that the Americans won't sneak in harsh conditions to their bridging proposal on settlements or construction in the capital, then his government will fall. An American promise to the Palestinians on limitations to the expansion of the settlements would also cause a shock to the political establishment which would bring the negotiations to a standstill until after the next Knesset elections.

I am greatly concerned at the prospect of such an incautious step by the Americans, because of the message that the president of Iran sent to Clinton via Arafat. The US is looking for a way to appease Iran, and Hatami has prepared the bait: Iran is willing to stop its support of Palestinian terrorist organizations if the US agrees to Arafat's demands.

In his own subtle phrasing: Iran will accept a settlement agreeable to the Palestinians. This statement from Iran poses a new challenge to Israel.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

Resolving conflicts

DAVID NEWMAN

The setting is the city of Bilbao, the largest city in the Basque region of north-west Spain. It may be an odd setting for a discussion of the complexities of the Israel-Palestine peace process, but the audience is attentive. They have come to hear whether there is anything they can learn from the lessons of Israel and the Palestinians for their own attempts to reach some form of solution concerning Basque autonomy and self-government, and simultaneously put an end to the violence.

The Israeli participants are just one of five groups from around the world who are attempting to peacefully resolve their ethnic and political problems. In addition to the Basque and the Israeli representatives, there are also teams from Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland and South Africa.

South Africa is held up as the success story of the five, a relatively smooth transition from apartheid to a democracy, in which political power has passed from the white minority to the black majority without major bloodshed or outflow of white refugees. No, not everything is perfect in the new South Africa, but compared to the situation that existed less than a decade ago in this country, the transformation to black majority rule has been remarkably successful.

For its part, Israel-Palestine and Sri Lanka are held up as the least successful of the five cases. In Sri Lanka, no meaningful negotiations between the Tamil majority and the Sinhalese minority are taking place, while in Israel the negotiations, which promised so much just two years ago, have all but broken down.

In all cases, the activities of extreme groups, opposed to the peace processes, who see such dialogue as being a sell-out rather than a move towards long-term stability and peace, threaten to put an end to the negotiations. It is difficult for governments to continue to negotiate when violence and terrorism continues to take place.

The Basques are eager to listen and to learn. This region, known by its inhabitants as the Basque country as an expression of their desire for greater autonomy from Spain, is preparing its own proposals for discussion. For the past 15 years, the Basques have had their own elected regional parliament, but for many of them it is insufficient.

DESPITE the obvious differences between each of the cases, there is much to be learnt in this form of comparative workshop. Under what conditions do peace processes take place at the outset? What makes the two sides decide to recognize the value of talking to, rather than fighting with, the other in an attempt to find acceptable solutions? To what extent is it important for external actors to be brought in as mediators and diplomatic go-betweens?

And, perhaps most important, what is the role of continued violence in bringing the peace processes to a halt. In turning the clock backwards to the pre-conflict resolution stage?

But peace processes are not simply about getting the leaders of both sides together around the conference table. They are also about the need to create a new atmosphere in which the peoples on both sides begin to believe that the long-term dividends of peace are greater than that of continual conflict. Persuading them that the "Other" does not represent an automatic threat to their own existence, and in ensuring that all populations, including the minority groups, will eventually have their own, and equal, forms of representation and self government.

In Israel, we have managed to undergo transition from conflict to negotiations, but we have done nothing to convince either Israelis or Palestinians that there are real long-term dividends to be gained from peace. We have not succeeded in putting an end to the violence practiced by extreme groups on both sides and which has virtually brought the process to a standstill.

It is a lesson to be learnt by others attempting to go down the same path of reconciliation. For without grass-roots support, the efforts, however well intentioned, are doomed to failure. And failure brings with it the specter of continued violence and bloodshed. Israel is, unfortunately, the example from which others must take heed if they are to avoid the same pitfalls.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EU DISREGARD

Sir.—During his visit to Israel, the British foreign secretary missed no occasion to stress that the approach of the European Union to the problems of our region "was grounded firmly in the Oslo Accords." In view of his deplorable behavior, it seems only appropriate to remind him that, at least as far as economic issues are concerned, the EU conducts its policy with flagrant disregard for these accords.

Last year, the EU signed a free-trade area agreement with the PLO (on behalf of the Palestinian Authority) in clear contravention of the relevant Oslo Accords, namely those signed at Paris (April 19, 1994) and at Washington (September 28, 1995). Both of them stipulate (in Article IX) that the PLO may sign economic agreements only if specifically provided for in these two accords. Even a diligent perusal by Mr. Cook of these doc-

uments could not enable him to claim that such a free-trade area agreement was anywhere specifically mentioned therein.

In other words, where the economic interests of the EU are at stake, neither Britain nor her European partners show the slightest compunction when signing an agreement with the PLO, which clearly violates the Oslo Accords. Moreover, not only does this free-trade area agreement run counter to the basic economic principle laid down in the Oslo Accords, namely the free movement of goods etc. between Israel and the Palestinian territories in both directions; it clearly infringes the rules of the WTO—the World Trade Organization. But that, as they say, is another matter.

EPHRAIM F. HARAN,
Former ambassador to GATT.

Omer.

CLOAK OF WORDS

Sir.—The literary and metaphorical language used by Professor Bernard Wasserstein in his articles may be meant to impress, but has the opposite effect on any intelligent reader.

Beneath the transparent cloak of words lies the man's vituperation, glaring hatred and bias, which can only be self-defeating. How can anyone treat seriously his writing that sinks below the level of any contributor to a respectable newspaper?

Might I humbly suggest that the learned professor take time out to go on a TACT-finding mission to learn how to be acceptable as a protagonist in a controversy requiring accurate knowledge of subject and a cool rational approach.

MILLIE DONBROW

Jerusalem.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Sir.—When the Zionist and Arab leaders of the day were lobbying actively at the 1919 Versailles Peace Conference for the independence of their respective nations in the Middle East, they showed a degree of mutual respect and cordially well worth emulating by their successors today.

In a letter (March 1, 1919) to Professor Felix Frankfurter, the Emir Feisal wrote: "We Arabs... look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement... we will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home. With chiefs of your movement, especially with Dr.

Weizmann, we have had and continue to have the closest relations. He has been a great helper in our cause and I hope the Arabs may soon be in a position to make the Jews some return for their kindness. We are working for a reformed and revived Near East and our two movements complete one another."

Maybe now that nearly 80 years later both our peoples are still in the midst of a "peace process," our leaders and our teachers may still find meaning in these guidelines.

LUCIEN HARRIS

Jerusalem.

AN HONOR!

Sir.—The Women in Green are honored to have upset a self-hating Jew like Bernard Wasserstein with our demonstration against British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook ("Feeding the Crocodiles," March 23).

As long as we are able to upset the likes of Bernard Wasserstein, we know we're on the right track in our struggle to save the people of Israel.

RUTH and NADIA MATAR

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Fifty years ago: On March 25, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the "Battle of the Roads" began when the Hagana launched a countrywide campaign against Arab traffic in reprisal for recent attacks on Jewish traffic. Arabs

ambushed convoys on roads near Jerusalem and in the Jezreel Valley; the toll in these actions was 36 Arabs and 17 Jews killed and many wounded.

25 years ago: On March 25,

1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported on the death of Haim Hazaz, 74, the doyen of Israeli writers, who died in Jerusalem after a heart attack.

Alexander Zvielli

Jerusalem

Resolving conflict

A new defense of fidelity

Every time you talk to your children about friendship you are preparing them to be loyal husbands and wives, says Catherine Wallace. Susan Reimer hears about her new book on an age-old issue



Telling stories with a moral punch line: Children may not grasp the urgency of erotic desire, but they can learn that gorging on dozens of doughnuts makes you sorry and sick.

ship, then you can talk about friendships. You realize that you are preparing your children to be loyal husbands and wives every time you talk to them about friendship, which we are doing from the time they are three or four years old."

Wallace is careful not to preach, because the kind of personal integrity that produces faithful marriages does not come from a stone tablet. And she doesn't try to frighten her children into fidelity with stories about STDs and AIDS and death because if eternal damnation doesn't keep you home at night, a virus isn't going to do it.

Instead, she tells stories — from the Bible, from the newspaper, from the neighborhood, from literature, from her own marriage — that demonstrate the nature of friendship. They are stories that are easy for a kid to sit through but have a moral punch line, one that gives dimension to vague and grown-up concepts like integrity and commitment and trust.

A CHILD cannot understand the discipline required for sexual fidelity, but he or she can understand a story about the sometimes high price of honesty. It's a lesson Wallace's son learned when the winning basket he had scored was nullified when he admitted that he had stepped out of bounds. His teammates vilified him for telling the truth.

A child may not understand the urgency of erotic desire, but that child can learn, as Wallace did, that you can't eat dozens of glazed doughnuts without feeling ashamed and sick. Instead of threatening "because I said so," she says, "Let me tell you a story."

Sometimes she is inventive, creating what historians call a "usable past," so her children can feel rooted in standards of behavior that support them during conflicts.

"It isn't that I want to block behavior in their lives," Wallace says of her three children, teenagers now. "It is that there are values and commitments I want them to be capable of."

For Wallace, sex is not the definition of fidelity. Sex is a language of fidelity — the ultimate expression of trust. (The Baltimore Sun)



Itamar: Can our hero save the sea?

(Shimon Peres)

The tortoise and the herring



By Judy Siegel Itzkovich

Itamar Mizli Et Hayam (Itamar Saves the Sea), a CD-ROM in Hebrew by Comedia, for ages four to nine, NIS 159. Rating: ★★

Little did David Grossman, the award-winning author of non-fiction works about the Jewish-Palestinian conflict, realize when he wrote his first children's book that it would be the beginning of a highly popular series of computer-program spin-offs. Comedia, which quickly identified the market potential of the carrot-topped boy named Itamar, has used the character not only to narrate Grossman's stories on the original CD-ROMs but also to present educational games and entertainment on CD-ROMs that have little resemblance to the original stories.

This latest offering, whose rights have also been leased by a computer printer company to promote its products, uses highly professional animation in the form of an interactive adventure. Although Comedia says it's meant for children as young as four, who could play individual games, finding their way around this many-layered program to reach the solution is beyond the abilities of most preschoolers.

The activity begins with Itamar walking to the cry of a red fish in his bathtub drain who asks the boy for urgent assistance. Somebody has pulled the "plug" out of the sea, and all marine life is at risk if the water drains out. Itamar must hurry and find it, as the walrus who is plugging up the hole with his flippers is getting tired.

The user is expected to go from one underwater tableau to another, picking up objects — especially prized by Doré — and depositing them in a shell-shaped suitcase at the bottom of the screen. Shells must be deposited in slot machines, public telephones and other devices to make them work as games.

Itamar comes across a tortoise whose backside is stuck in a jar, making him — at least according to our hero — look like a "container of pickled cabbage." The tortoise pleads with Itamar to find his shell, which somebody has taken, and only then will he allow the boy to watch TV with him. The shell, if you need a hint, can be found, worn like a helmet, by an underwater cop.

On another journey, Itamar encounters a lobster who cooks and thinks the boy looks odd for a fish. When the child protests that he is not a fish, the lobster impudently suggests he resembles "gefille fish with a carrot on top."

But the crustacean soon becomes more pleasant and asks him to find ingredients — whipped cream, candies and jam — to make him a cake. Itamar must wander around and, with the user's help, collect these objects and bring them back.

Interspersed among these vignettes are 10 types of games, most of them imaginative: a shooting gallery, solitaire, a fish Pac-man, a soccer game, a memory game, and so on. The most interesting is a *News of the Sea* publication, in which sentences can be

sounded by clicking in the right sequence on graphic symbols representing words.

If you despair of finding the rubber plug to stop the sea from leaking, you can consult the enclosed Hebrew-language program manual for a detailed, four-page explanation of all the moves required to solve the problem.

The variety of the games is diverse enough to prevent kids from tiring of them too fast; but once they locate the necessary objects along the way, they may not want to try to find the rubber plug over and over again.

The Bible in Pictures, a CD-ROM picture gallery in English and Hebrew, by Computronik Corporation in Savoyon, for all ages, NIS 189. Rating: ★★

Gustav Doré was a prolific and successful 19th-century French book illustrator whose black-and-white biblical illustrations were dramatic, romantic and almost theatrical. Their influence can clearly be seen in the great Hollywood epics produced decades ago.

Since Adam and Eve, Moses, David, and all the other biblical characters did not have artists or photographers to capture their images, contemporary man's conception of biblical characters depends on the imagination or on their depiction by artists such as Doré.

Computronik Corporation has collected 119 of Doré's illustrations of black-and-white biblical scenes, colorized them and made it possible to print them out. It has packaged them with 14 maps and 12 video clips and included a complete printed manual. But it's difficult to know which market this program is aimed at.

Doré's illustrations, from Creation to the killing of Queen Athaliah, are mostly familiar to people who have seen reproductions in books of Bible stories. Each picture appears with an appropriate verse that can be read out in Hebrew or English at the click of the mouse.

Desktop publishers of Jewish-related material could find it useful if they need biblical material. If aimed at the bar- or bat-mitzva crowd, it seems to have missed the mark. I can't imagine the average bar-mitzva boy or bat-mitzva girl going through all the illustrations out of pure curiosity.

To view the illustrations, you have to readjust your computer system for 600 x 800 resolution, which is probably not your default setting, so after using the disk, this will have to be switched back.

The map collections include illustrations of the travels of Abraham, the route taken by the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land, the parts of Eretz Yisrael settled by the 12 Tribes, the Kingdom of David and of today's Old City of Jerusalem. These appear in either Hebrew or English and could be useful for schoolwork.

But the video clips — narrated only in English, and seemingly aimed at a Diaspora audience with tourism potential — are a hodgepodge that seem to have been thrown in without rhyme or reason.

There are short films of excavations at Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer and the City of David, but also of contemporary children playing in a haredi neighborhood.

The clips have little relevance to the bar/bat mitzva audience and can't be used in desktop publishing.



By Ruth Mason

Our six-year-old just doesn't listen to us. A typical scene: We're walking into Grandma's house before lunch, and I remind him he can't have candy. First thing, he goes for the candy dish and then comes over and opens his mouth to show me what he's eating.

He's been much more difficult the past six months or so. He's had trouble going to sleep at night, and his kindergarten teacher says he is aggressive toward other children and spends a lot of time in the principal's office.

My mother, who was strict with us, says we're inconsistent and give into him too much. I'm four

months pregnant with our second child, but this "phase" began before the pregnancy.

Can you help? Beth Falk, Ph.D., New York child and school psychologist answers:

It is not unusual for six-year-olds to flex their muscles, becoming more challenging and sometimes more provocative. They are straddling the end of early childhood — a time when relatively few demands were made of them and parents were omnipotent — and the beginning of middle childhood, a time when children are expected to exercise more self-control. They will be expected to read and write, and to delay gratification more readily.

For some children this is a rather tense period; and as we know, children often have a hard time verbalizing more complex or subtle feelings, showing us instead how they feel through their actions.

So it's important for you to be aware that, in part, your son's "bad" behavior is age-appropriate, and not necessarily a sign of "bad" parenting.

On the other hand, it's critical that you and your husband cooper-

ate in creating responses that clearly signal the child that you, as the adults in the family, are firmly in charge and will guide him toward developing self-control and respect for others.

Easy to say, of course — and often extremely hard to do!

IF I WERE meeting with you and your husband, I would begin by asking some questions to try and clarify why it has been hard for you to set limits where your son is concerned. Together we would learn how to make the most of your personal styles and strengths.

Questions might include: Are you afraid of your child's anger, making it hard to say no because you will then have to deal with an irate child?

Is there an anger-related issue in your family history that needs to be worked through so you can tolerate and not feel overwhelmed by your child's angry reactions?

Do you have any ideas about what may be fueling your son's "not listening" to you?

What is your son's school experience like? Does he have friends? Has he had any learning problems? Are there perhaps other

children close to him who might be "modeling" negative behaviors that he is trying on for size?

Has there been any conflict between you and your husband? Has the child witnessed his father putting you down or acting disrespectfully toward you?

Children frequently act as barometers of parental tension, and your son's challenging behavior could be an indirect way of expressing anger or fear about a marital conflict.

Dissent between parents and grandparents is another avenue to explore. If your mother has been open in her criticism of your parenting, your son might be feeling caught in the middle, which in turn may lead to more testing of limits.

Solutions that will help you get through a tough period will emerge from your answers to the above questions.

Some more suggestions: Plan how you will respond to your son's testing of limits. We find ourselves frequently caught off guard, even though our children's behavior is repetitive and often predictable. A plan helps us think through our responses more rationally, helps us

RABIN

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LEAH RABIN

SHALOM HAVER

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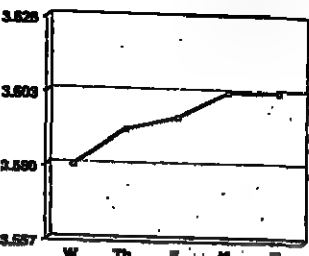
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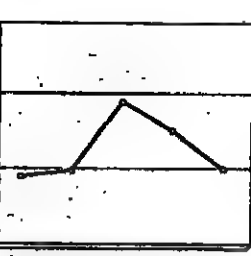
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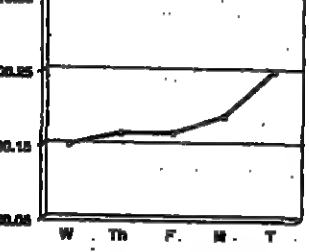


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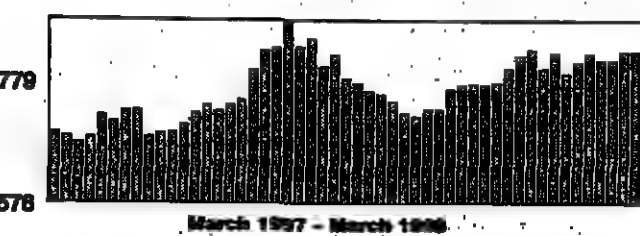


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Knesset expected to expand price-labeling rules today

By NINA GILBERT

The Knesset Economics Committee is expected today to approve a series of amendments to price-labeling regulations which will require the labeling of all packaged products except for bagged milk, chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) said yesterday.

Yehzekel said only four out of 15 MKs on the committee are expected to vote against the proposed amendments, introduced by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Sharansky has asked for all dairy products, food items sold in bins or display boxes and cases, frozen chicken and motor oils, which have enjoyed an exemption from price labeling, to be included in the regulations. He has also threatened to withdraw the legislation if the committee makes any changes.

However, Yehzekel said yesterday that the

committee does not tend to approve legislation en bloc, and that he believed that the ministry would not withdraw the measure if labeling was approved for everything except for bagged milk.

The regulations would take effect in three months. As a result, prices will have to be placed on each item sold, including drink bottles and cans, soup packages, humus containers, candy bars and packaged snack foods.

In a committee hearing yesterday, Yehzekel noted that beyond Sharansky's legislation the problem with price-labeling is enforcement. He called on the ministry to double the amount of inspectors and for the public to file complaints.

Antitrust Authority director David Tadmor said price labeling is a crucial element to ensuring competition. "It lets the consumer choose between products. The comparison of prices brings down prices," he said. "More information means greater

competition."

"The labeling of the price on the product is not an issue of cost to supermarkets, but convenience," he said. "The supermarket chains are afraid of competition, that is why they don't want price labeling."

However, representatives of the supermarket chains said price labeling is unnecessary and archaic, since prices are marked on shelves and given modern technology, such as bar codes.

Super-Sol president David Alphandary suggested that shelves be installed with dividers so the labels can be clearly matched to the products. "The use of pricing guns will introduce more mistakes," he said. "People are smart enough to read the shelves."

Co-op chairman Ya'acov Gelbard suggested that stores be allowed to use digital labels linked to a central computer, so that there would be no confusion between labels and the register prices.

Tnuva president Gedalya Gal said the best way to inform consumers is to have the price on the product, but that the need to expedite the transfer of dairy products from factory, to truck and then to the shelves, is more important.

A representative of small food shops, Eli Boublil, said it is unfair to enforce the regulations on small stores, which have less personnel and are being pushed out of the marketplace by the large chain stores. "No one, not even my son, will come help me mark prices on milk products at 5 in the morning," he said.

The Israel Consumer Council blasted the attitude of the supermarkets. "Prices are deliberately left off products to make more money from consumers," said chairman Aniella Ravdel-Nedkov.

She called on the committee to respect consumers' wishes and said that a survey has found that 84% prefer to have prices marked on products.

IDB net income drops 20.6%

Discount workers hold wage protest

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Bloomberg

Israel Discount Bank yesterday reported a 20.6 percent drop in net income last year to NIS 199.9 million from NIS 251.6m. in 1996.

In the fourth quarter, net income fell 48% to NIS 7.1m. from NIS 13.6m. in the same period in 1996.

The bank's news conference in Tel Aviv was canceled yesterday when management decided not to arrive due to a protest at the entrance to Beit Sokolov by workers over their wage agreement and the failure to move to a five-day work week.

"Management refuses to hold a press conference under the threat of violence," the bank's spokesman announced to journalists. Management added that it was not willing to hold the conference under police protection.

The bank, the country's third largest, attributed the drop to two non-recurring factors - a voluntary early retirement program, amounting to NIS 94.6m., which is being implemented as part of an efficiency plan, and measures taken to "hedge the dollar risk in real terms of its investment in Israel Discount Bank of New York."

The bank expects to reduce salary costs this year, following completion of the early retirement program.

Assets in 1997 were valued at NIS 83.7 billion, compared with

NIS 82.7b. in 1996. Deposits from the public totaled NIS 74b., compared with NIS 71.3b. a year earlier.

The drop in fourth quarter earnings was attributed to lower earnings from lending and higher provisions for bad loans.

Provision for doubtful debts in the fourth quarter was NIS 170.7m., up from NIS 158.8m. the year before.

The rise in charges for bad loans "stemmed from the slowdown in the economy. Close to one-half were in the construction and real estate industries," said Discount Bank CEO Avraham Asheri.

He said real estate and construction account for about 30% of the bank's loan portfolio.

Whether the bank will be able to reduce bad debt provisions this year depends on the economy and the real estate market, according to Doron Tsar, head of research at Shoham Securities.

He said Discount's return on equity of 4.6% last year lags behind other large Israeli banks, which have returns of 10% and more.

Income on loan activity after provisions for bad debt was NIS 405m., down from NIS 420.5m. in the fourth quarter of 1996.

Government officials have said they want to sell off the state's 51.5% holding in Israel Discount Bank before the end of this year.

Last year, the government sold a controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim Ltd., the country's largest bank.

Capital inflows up 60%

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The non-financial private sector's capital imports rose 60 percent last year from 1996 to \$7.4 billion, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

However, the bulk of the increase was registered during the first half of the year, while in the last six months only \$1.4b. was imported by the non-banking parts of the business sector.

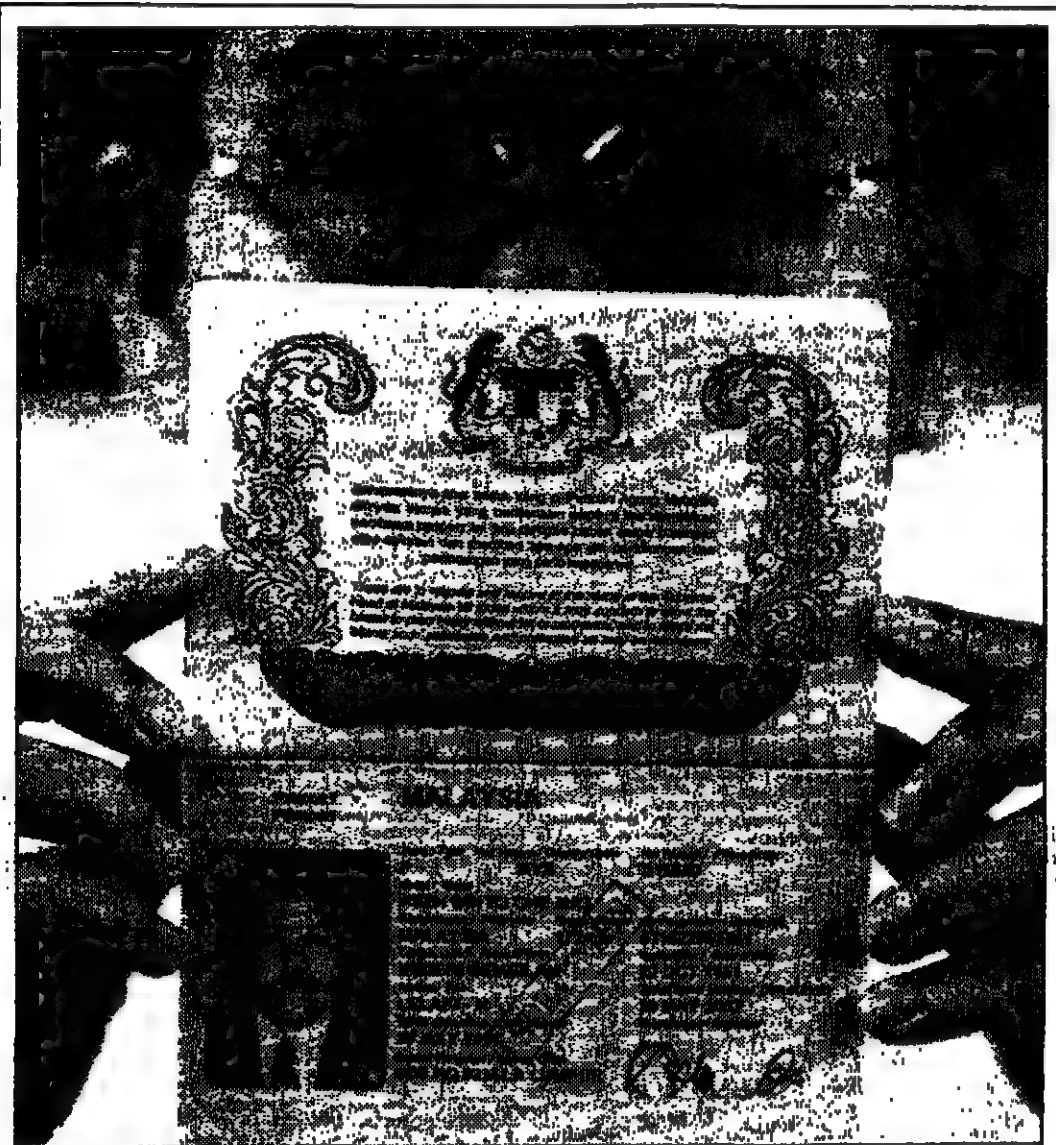
The decline in foreign-currency denominated borrowing during the second half of the year was not coupled by repayments.

During the first half of the year, the central bank detected a sharp increase in foreign-currency

denominated borrowing by Israeli residents, apparently reflecting a widespread assessment that the shekel would continue to maintain a relatively stable exchange rate.

This tendency, said the bank, could in turn be attributed to a favorable judgment on investors' part of the improvements in the current-account deficit and the continued inflow of foreign investments, set against the backdrop of interest rates which are higher than the rates offered on foreign currencies.

The central bank attributed the sharp decline in foreign borrowing to the public's apparent concern over the repercussions of the Asian financial crisis.



Passport of the future

A Malaysian immigration official displays a specimen of the first-ever passport to include an identity chip. The chip, embedded in the back cover, stores information on the bearer, including fingerprints and photograph.

Which stocks do you follow?

Late each night, just before the Jerusalem Post goes to press, CommStock Trading updates the closing stock prices that you read here every morning. We give you the New York, London, Paris and Frankfurt stock markets, Israeli shares abroad, commodities prices in New York and London, metal prices and indices. We're proud that CommStock's satellite information services provide this up-to-date information to Jerusalem Post readers.

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Customs and VAT Management
Material Resources Department
Tel. 02-670-3482/3

Tender 5/98 Installation of an X-ray Inspection Platform in the Customs Facility in Ashdod Port

- The Customs and VAT Authority invites bids for installing an X-ray inspection platform in the customs facility in Ashdod Port.
- The bids (in NIS) and purchase conditions must comply with the general and technical requirements, as detailed in the technical specifications.
- The bid will be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submitting the bids.
- Bids must include the cost of providing an annual repair and maintenance service for ten years, following the one-year warranty, as detailed in the quantities list.
- The following documents must be attached to the bid:
 - Proof of registration for the last two years in the Contractors' Register, Classification 100 Gimmel-1.
 - The bidder is a registered contractor, with proven experience of at least five years in carrying out work of the scope and classification of Para. 5a.
 - A bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, including VAT, guaranteeing the bid's implementation.
 - The guarantee will be unconditional and should be made out to the Customs and VAT Authority of the Ministry of Finance. It should be valid for 120 days from the last date for submitting the bids.
 - A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
 - Confirmation issued by an income tax assessing officer or an auditor that the bidder keeps account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance.
 - The bidder must attach all the documents required in the general conditions to demonstrate that he meets the tender pre-conditions and technical specifications.
- The tender documents can be purchased for NIS 200 (non-refundable), paid into Account 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. The details of the tender should be marked on the receipt and be attached to the bid.
- The tender documents can be obtained at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Authority, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of the receipt.
- If all the required documents are not submitted the bid will not be considered.
- A tour for contractors at the site will take place on March 30, 1998 at 11 a.m. The group will meet at Gate Hah at the entrance to Ashdod Port.
- The last date for submitting bids is April 6, 1998 at 12 noon.
- The bid should be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, with a receipt, or in person, to the following address:

Room 214, Customs and VAT Authority, P.O.B. 320 Rehov Agon, Jerusalem 91002.
- The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to hold a series of clarification's with each bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
- The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct negotiations with each bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
- For further details and technical clarifications, contact Mr. Yoram Tibi, Divisional Manager, Tel. 03-513-0940, 052-837057.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

The Customs and VAT Authority may order only part of the work from a bidder, at its sole discretion, and bidders will not be eligible for compensation from the management for exercising its right.

Customs and VAT Management
Material Resources Department
Tel. 02-670-3482/3

Tender 4/98 Supply of Conveyors for the X-ray Inspection Platform at the Customs Facility in Ashdod Port

- The Customs and VAT Authority invites bids for the planning, production and installation of conveyors for the X-ray inspection platform in the customs facility in Ashdod port.
- Bids (to be given in NIS) and purchase conditions must comply with the general and technical requirements, as detailed in the technical specifications.
- Bidders must also submit (as required by the quantities list):
 - An estimate for providing an annual repair and maintenance service for ten years, following the one-year warranty.
 - An estimate for dismantling the conveyors and re-assembling them in another shed in Ashdod port.
- Bids must be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submitting the bids.
- The cost of the tender documents is NIS 200 (non-refundable), to be paid into Account 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. The details of the tender should be marked on the receipt and be attached to the bid. The tender documents are available at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Authority, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of the receipt.
- The following documents must be attached to the bid:
 - A bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, including VAT, guaranteeing the bid's implementation. The guarantee must be unconditional and should be made out to the Customs and VAT Authority of the Ministry of Finance. It should be valid for 120 days from the last date for submitting the bids.
 - A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
 - Confirmation issued by an income tax assessing officer or an accountant that the bidder keeps account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance.
 - All the documents listed in the general conditions of the tender and the attached technical specifications.
- Bids which do not include all the required documents will not be considered.
- A site tour for contractors will take place on March 30, 1998, at 11 a.m., meeting at Gate Hah at the entrance to Ashdod Port.
- All bids must be submitted by April 6, 1998 at 12 noon.
- Bid should be placed in a sealed envelope and should be sent either by registered mail, together with the receipt, or be delivered in person, to the following address:

Bld for Tenders Box: Tender 4/98
Room 214
Customs and VAT Department
P.O.B. 320
32 Rehov Agon
Jerusalem 91002
- The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct a series of clarification's with every bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
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- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

Turkish business delegation to visit next week

By NINA GILBERT

Twenty industrialists involved in Turkey's massive infrastructure project, the GAP, in southeastern Anatolia, are to visit here next week, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday.

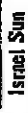
Sharansky, on a three-day visit to Turkey, asked the Turkish government to enable Israeli companies to participate in tenders for Turkish infrastructure projects. The delegation will be hosted by the Israel Export Institute. In May, a delegation of 50 Turkish businessmen is to arrive.

The GAP includes the construction of dams and irrigation of dry land, as well as development projects in agriculture, energy, transportation, and telecommunications.

Sharansky, who opened the annual session of the Israel-Turkey Business Council yesterday, said there is also great potential for joint Israeli-Turkish projects in the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

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DIAL 03-5129111 FROM 6 AM TO 11 PM
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK



By GREER FAY CASHMAN

chief manager of finances, has announced his resignation, due to take effect on July 1. He will continue to function as chairman of the boards of Telrad and Koor Holdings, as well as other Koor subsidiaries, until October of this year.

02-588-8408
03-639-0277
CLOSED ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
5 p.m. Fridays and Saturday nights

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1994 (%)	yield 1993 (%)
Lahart Strategic	233.57	233.57	0.82	2.34	—
Lahart Vector	194.50	194.50	0.88	2.59	—
Mutual Perform	191.08	191.08	0.93	2.04	—
Mutual Corp. Bonds	168.84	168.84	0.87	0.38	—
Mutual Money Market	116.37	116.37	+1.16	2.47	—
Mutual Corp. Bonds	141.25	141.27	0.87	0.27	—
Monetta Shivers	107.88	108.88	0.87	-0.97	—
Mutual Corporate Bonds	180.80	178.84	+0.48	-1.15	—
Ozarc Strategic	226.93	230.58	1.01	2.00	—
Pia Health	227.78	227.78	+1.13	0.00	—
Pia Health	168.88	168.88	+0.86	0.00	—
Pia Capital	230.28	237.06	+0.87	-0.91	—
Pia Cr.	110.10	108.72	0.42	-0.48	—
Pia Cr.	27.02	27.02	0.22	0.22	—
Pia Strategic	1250.76	1244.01	0.82	-3.84	—
Pia Strategic	104.38	104.38	1.71	+3.85	—
Pia Trade	38.75	38.75	0.48	0.00	—
Pia Values	225.54	222.28	+1.14	-3.80	—
Pia Values	104.19	104.19	+1.28	-1.19	—
Pia Corp. Bonds	226.46	226.46	+0.86	0.00	—
Pia Corp. Bonds	226.46	226.46	1.37	+3.33	—
Pia Corp. Bonds	124.41	123.01	+0.86	+1.29	—
Pia Corp. Bonds	598.41	598.41	+0.85	+1.29	—
Pia Corp. Bonds	124.41	123.04	-0.56	-2.72	—
Pia Corp. Bonds	142.31	142.31	0.72	0.00	—
Starch Inc.	188.76	188.76	+0.85	+0.85	—
Yield	261.66	261.66	0.80	0.00	—
Zeller Fund Bonds	230.80	230.80	1.80	0.00	—
Zion Bonds	191.58	191.46	+0.23	-0.52	—
Zion Corp. Bonds	105.72	105.47	+1.89	-2.17	—

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Arcador	-480
Arco Corp.	103000
Atlantic Lightening Bond S	130.5
Atlas Cable Bond C	-0.4
Aviation	0.9
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ISRAELI SHARES	
	ABROAD
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AMEX	
Amp Israel Paper Mills	26.775
Amiel American Israel	-0.25
Electro Chemical Ind	+0.125
Eco Land	-0.375
Eco Land Cl A	+
Imaginatix Technology	1.25
Central Commerce Sys	-0.25
NASDAQ	
ACS Electronics Ltd	9.0625
Acorn Software	10.625
ACS Associates	-4.85
Alcan	-1.13
Alcan Ltd	14.9125
Altel	2.1875
Arity Advertising Ltd	2.375
Arco Online Systems Ltd	2.375
Avi Technology General	8.5125
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Am Israel Paper Mfg	35.375	-0
Ampl Amcan Israel	5	-0
Electro Chemical Ind	1	0
Elz Lavud	8.75	+0
Elz Lavud Cl A	7	+1
Integrated Technology	1.25	0

NASDAQ

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NYSE

Blue Square	12.6875	+0
D.S.P. Communications	15.9375	+0
Eschmi	7.375	+0
First Israel Fund	13.525	+0
PEC Israeli Economic Corp	21.125	+0
Koor	23.4375	+0
Simda Inc	15.625	+0
Super-Sol Ltd	15.6875	+0

LONDON

Bath Advanced	151.5	+0
Dmerek Ltd	22	+0
Geo Interactive Media	141.5	+0
Past	62.5	+0
S.E.A. Multimedia	4.5	+0

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 24-)

INTERNATIONAL

SHARES
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NEW YORK

AMP Inc.	138	-1
AMF Corp	21.3125	-0
ASA		

Alborz Labs	75.93%
Adams & Wilco	68.75%
Aerco Inc.	66.75%
Alstair Indust	25.75%
Altac	66.58%
Aluminum (H.F.)	83.59%
Air Products	65.81%
Auto Code B	30%
Albertson's	50.39%
Alcan Aluminum	30.36%
Altair Signal	29.63%
Alcoa	71.45%
Alcon	65.61%
Armstrong Heat	69.28%
Amer Bapco	24.25%
Amer El Power	50.67%
Amer Elec	66.69%
Amer Gasl Corp	62.26%
Amer Gasring	48.5%
Amer Home Pr	91.16%
Amer Int'l	127.75%
Amer Natl Inc	39%
Amer Power Con	29.67%
Amer Steel	66.75%
Amer T & E	57.75%
Amer West	55.62%
Amtek Inc.	25.5%
Amgen	61.12%

*In local currencies

Forget the lagers, four espressos please

NEVER mind Manchester United's exit from the European stage, or the continuing frothy soap opera at Newcastle (angry fans were seen at the home defeat by Crystal Palace on Wednesday throwing their replica shirts at the directors' box).

The real news of the week concerns a report in a Sunday newspaper that Sky Television are considering moving the Premiership fixtures to a Sunday and introducing a massive pay-per-view scheme.

Premiership spokesman Mike Lee told reporters that the plan to move fixtures was "nonsense" but it appears that the proposal is on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting of Premiership clubs, with all the talk of this country losing its identity as it moves closer to a single European currency, the final bastion of your solid piece of England - the Saturday afternoon 3 p.m. kick-off could be for the chop.

Somewhat, you can't imagine your average English fans dropping into the local bar on a Sunday and ordering four espressos instead of the usual lagers.

Britain is now virtually isolated within the European soccer fold after Manchester United's demise at the hands of Monaco. While the experts were unanimous in their praise for Monaco, United manager Alex Ferguson came in for some criticism of his post-match press conference in which his praise for the French team was conspicuous by its absence. Instead, Ferguson remarked that despite the extensive injury list, the team had played well, and that European referees are not

as good as their English counterparts. According to fans on a phone-in conducted by BBC Radio after the game, Ferguson's inability to give praise when defeated is the very reason why Manchester United are unpopular.

ONE manager who is tasting success against the odds is Southampton's David Jones. The likable Liverpoolian, who joined Southampton after taking Stockport County to the First Division, has raised a few eyebrows this season as Southampton have already virtually secured their Premiership status following a recent excellent run of form.

Jones has spent the equivalent of a child's weekly pocket money on players. He has traveled all over the world looking for players, and has clocked up 50,000 miles in his car in the last four months. Eventually he decided that there was enough local talent to see Southampton out of trouble.

He has invested wisely, Kevin Richardson, Carlton Palmer, David Hirst, Paul Jones have proved to be the shrewdest purchases of the season. And striker Kevin Davies, bought by the previous Southampton boss Graeme Souness for £750,000 from Chesterfield last season, is now attracting interest from the big clubs.

NOW, hands up if you have heard of *Sport First*. This is a sports tabloid which hit the

news stands last week and it appears, is still on the same stands this week. *The Observer* described the paper's launch as "Barely a whimper, with pages it has a lot of space but not much substance."

Like *Sportsworld* and *Sportweek* before it, *Sport First* appears to be on its way to oblivion. There just isn't the market in this country for an equivalent of *L'equipe* or *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

LONDON CALLING

By MARK BAYLIS

THE latest fad in television over here is the fly-on-the-wall documentary. From noisy neighbors to managing supermarkets, the cameras are there to record ordinary people going about their everyday business. And with football the ubiquitous barometer of the mood of the country, it didn't take long for the cameras to reflect everyday life at a top club. "Premier Passions," a four-part documentary on the progress of Sunderland Football Club in the 1996-7 season, has kept us glued to our screens for the past month - despite the fact that those of us interested in football already knew the answer to the question which the program posed. Would Sunderland begin the 1997-8 campaign in its spanking new stadium in the Premier League or First Division?

The main characters in this larger-than-life soap were manager Peter Reid and a group of fans representing all classes who, despite the club's relegation to the First Division, were able to keep a smile on their faces.

It would have been difficult for Quentin Tarantino to better Reid's dialogue. His half-time team talks were quite simply a revelation. Not only did he manage to insert the 'f' word into most sentences, he also had an uncanny talent for inserting it within a phrase. "The way you are f...ing playing, you are f...ing going f...ing down," Reid pointed out during a particularly grueling display at home to Tottenham.

Unfortunately for the fans, he was right. Not surprisingly, the BBC was inundated with furious viewers appalled at the language. Reid, as mild-mannered a chap as you could hope to meet, apologized, explaining that the program reflected the reality of football life adding that his mum would be upset by the language.

But Reid is certainly enjoying life this season as Sunderland aim for a quick return to the Premiership. And with almost 40,000 fans packing the new Stadium of Light, relegation from the Premiership hardly seems to have mattered.

FINALLY to the one English team remaining in Europe, Chelsea, who overcame Real Betis in the quarter finals of the Cup Winners' Cup. Betis president Ruiz de Lopera admitted after the game that he had been planning to give his players a box of chocolates and a win bonus. Following the defeat Senor de Lopera reduced his offer to two fruit bars. As Peter Reid would undoubtedly have it - two figgy fruit bars.

SPORTS

in brief

Gascoigne joins Middlesbrough

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Rangers and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne is joining first division Middlesbrough in a three-and-a-half-year deal, it was announced last night. Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson confirmed the move to Sky television. The deal taking him from the Scottish champions to the English club is subject to a medical.

Caesarea golf

Cyril Kaufman won the A division of last week's individual stableford tournament at the Caesarea Golf Club. He scored 58, one better than Zev Abraham's 37 while Mike Bannister also had 37 but with an inferior back-nine. The best score of the day was the 40 points by Shmuelik Futeran in the B division. Norma Kaufman was second with 37 and Amos Amir followed with 36. Yakov Zarnai took the C division with 37 with Faith Spector second with 33 and Gerd Kessler third with 33. In the national Coca Cola league after four rounds, Kfar Sava is leads with 27.5 points with Kfar Shmaryahu second on 26. Heather Chair

Brazil still firm favorites to win World Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - Brazil, who play Germany in a friendly in Stuttgart today, are still firm 3-1 favorites to win this year's World Cup in France. Germany remain 7-1 third favorites but those odds could change depending on the outcome today's match. Hosts France are second favorites at 6-1.

Latest odds: Brazil 3-1 France 6-1 Germany 7-1 England, Netherlands 8-1 Argentina 12-1 Spain 16-1 Nigeria 20-1 Croatia, Yugoslavia 25-1 Belgium, Romania 40-1 Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Norway 50-1 Paraguay 80-1 Austria, Cameroon, Chile, Scotland, South Africa 100-1 Mexico 150-1 Morocco, Saudia Arabia, South Korea, US200-1 Jamaica, Japan, Tunisia 250-1 Iran 300-1.

Punter still dreams of Redknapp as captain

LONDON (Reuters) - If Jamie Redknapp plays for England in their friendly against Switzerland today, it will rekindle the hopes of one punter of winning a £50,000 jackpot.

Seven years ago, when Redknapp was only 17, Liverpool supporter Alex Robb staked £250 at odds of 200-1 that Redknapp would captain England on or before February 1, 2001.

"Mr Robb has been waiting patiently for this bet to pay off," said William Hill spokesman Graham Sharpe. "Perhaps he'll turn out to be a winner during the World Cup."

Sampras, Seles ousted from Lipton Championships

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (Reuters) - Pete Sampras's hold on the world No. 1 ranking grew extremely precarious on Monday when he was felled by 36th-ranked Wayne Ferreira of South Africa at the Lipton Championships.

Sampras sailed through the first set unscathed and held two match points in a second-set tiebreak before losing the third-round contest 6-6 7-6 (8-6) 6-3.

"I'm just kind of sitting in the locker room, sitting here in shock that I lost this match," Sampras admitted.

"Obviously, I'm lacking a little bit of confidence these past couple of weeks," With Sampras's ouster, three players are in position to ascend to No. 1 this week - second-ranked Czech Petr Korda, third-ranked Marcelo Rios of Chile and fifth-ranked Greg Rusedski of Britain.

Sampras was not about to run up the white flag just yet.

"The year is very young. There's a lot of tennis yet to be played, a lot of big tournaments coming up," said Sampras, who has one title in five tournaments this year.

The second-seeded Korda, a 6-4 4-6 6-3 winner over Spain's Francisco Clavet on Monday, could displace Sampras by reaching the semifinals. Rios or Rusedski need to win the tournament to seize the ranking Sampras has held for 102 consecutive weeks.

Rusedski, runner-up to Rios last week in Indian Wells, kept his chances alive with a 6-1 7-6 (10-8) third-round win over Marc Rosset of Switzerland.

While the status of the men's No. 1 is in jeopardy, former

women's No. 1 Monica Seles receded further by falling to Russian up-and-comer Anna Kournikova 7-5 6-4. The 17-year-old Kournikova's win over role model Seles, 24, lifted her to a fourth-round match against ninth seed Conchita Martinez.

Seles, once known for her trademark grunt and powerful groundstrokes, had just 16 winners to Kournikova's 33. In the end, it was Kournikova letting out a victory squeal.

In fourth-round matches,

women's top seed and world No. 1 Martina Hingis advanced over 13th-seeded Sandrine Testud of France 6-3 5-7 6-2, while No. 2 Lindsay Davenport cruised to a 6-1 6-2 victory over another Frenchwoman, 12th seed Nathalie Tauziat.

Third seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic also had an easy time, beating 14th-seeded German Anke Huber 6-2 6-2.

Sixth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa was not so fortunate, falling 6-7 (3-7) 6-2 6-1 to Silvia Farina of Italy.

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PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT. Single weekday - NIS 146.25 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 14.62. FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVEN - NIS 228.15 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 22.81. TWO FRIDAYS - NIS 388.10 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 38.81. MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (package) - NIS 321.60 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 32.16. WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 488 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 48.80. FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 625.55 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 62.55. MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 1140.75 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 114.07. Rates are valid until MAY 31 1998.

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NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Four Cuban ballplayers and a coach evaded government authorities by hiding in one of the tunnels Fidel Castro ordered built to shelter Cubans from possible US attack, a US newspaper reported yesterday.

The ballplayers and four others, hiding out for days while they waited for seas to calm, "had to maintain silence because there was so much danger of us getting caught," Cuban baseball coach Orlando China told the *Sun-Sentinel* of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, through the chain-link

fence of the Carmichael Road Detention Center.

On March 10, China pretended to be going about his daily business, then disappeared without a word to his wife and 12-year-old son, taking only some pictures of them.

The other ballplayers also left without telling anyone, traveling in rented cars to Las Tunas, an eastern city hundreds of miles

from their province of Villa Clara. At Las Tunas, the athletes, wearing disguises, met four companions, China said Monday.

"We were trying to camouflage ourselves to keep from arousing suspicions," China said.

They moved into the abandoned tunnel, which China described as one of hundreds of "people's tunnels" first built after the failed, US-sponsored Bay of Pigs attack

intended to dislodge Castro in 1961. Construction continued into the early 1990s.

For five or six days, the group hid there, then moved into the basement of a friend's house for a few more days. They got rosaries from a local priest, who did not know what they were up to.

"It's been blessed by the pope," China said, fishing out a white plastic rosary from under his blue

warm-up jacket and kissing it. "He (the priest) happened to have nine. He gave them to some friends who brought them to us." With the rosaries, "we always thought we were being protected," he said.

Miami-based sports agent Joe Casas has been working to keep the group from being sent back. Bahamian immigration director Melvin Seymour said Monday he "is hoping to return them home

soon."

"We're very concerned," said Rene Guim, Casas' spokesman. "If they step up the process to return them to Cuba, we have to step up the process to get them humanitarian visas."

In late December, the Bahamas permitted a group of Cuban ballplayers — including pitcher Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, brother of Florida Marlins pitcher

Livan Hernandez — to seek asylum in Costa Rica. Orlando Hernandez has signed with the New York Yankees.

On March 20, China's group boarded a 19-foot open boat with a single outboard motor at Puerto Padre. After 17½ hours, they were rescued by a Bahamian fishing boat.

With China, 41, at the detention center are former Cuban national team catcher Angel Lopez, 25; first baseman Jorge Diaz, 23; second baseman Jorge Diaz, 23; and Michael Jova, 17, a junior Olympic shortstop.

Pippen leads Bulls to 6th-straight win

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen scored 27 points, including 14 on soaring, forceful dunks, as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Boston Celtics 111-88 Monday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Michael Jordan added 24 points and Dennis Rodman had 14 rebounds to go with a season-high 12 points for the Bulls, who have won 14 of their last 15 games against the Celtics.

Antoine Walker scored 26 points, but Boston still lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Pistons 94, 76ers 79

Allen Iverson was held to a career-low four points as Detroit, behind 20 points from Joe Dumars, won on the road.

Iverson shot just 7 for 14 for the Sixers, who came back from three 16-point deficits but could never quite catch the Pistons.

Grant Hill had 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Brian Williams had 14 points and 13 rebounds as Detroit won its third in a row.

Mavericks 91, Timberwolves 87

Hubert Davis came off the bench to score 10 of his 16 points during a 20-2 fourth quarter run as Dallas rallied past Minnesota for a home victory.

Michael Finley had 27 points and Shawn Bradley added 16 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks for the Mavericks, who won for the third time in four games.

Lakers 107, Nuggets 86

Eddie Jones scored 27 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 24 points and nine rebounds as Los Angeles completed its second straight four-game season sweep of the Nuggets.

Kobe Bryant added 23 points for the Lakers, who sent the Nuggets to a franchise record-tying 62nd loss.

SuperSonics 109, Kings 83

Gary Payton scored 24 points and Hershey Hawkins broke a two-game scoreless drought with 16 points as Seattle ended a two-game losing streak with a home win.

The Sonics (51-17) moved half a game ahead of the Utah Jazz in the battle for best record in the

Western Conference.

The Kings were without Mitch Richmond, their leading scorer at 23.4 points per game who was sidelined with a sore right knee.

Grizzlies 106, Clippers 95

Bryant Reeves scored 35 points as host Vancouver set a franchise record with its 16th win.

Reeves, who had 15 points in the third quarter, also pulled down 12 rebounds and blocked five shots as Vancouver ended a seven-game losing streak.

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Flora's route—Fortson, A-17, 171

Sacramento 22 18 14 25-83
Seattle 31 27 28 25-108
SACRAMENTO (83) Owens 25-83 4, Williamson 1-0 0-2, Thorpe 4-10 1-5 8, Abdul-Wadud 9-12 2-5 13, Johnson 5-12 2-2 13, Funderburke 2-5 1-2 4, Polynice 4-7 0-2 3, Delaney 7-11 0-0 14, Handchick 0-2 2-2 2, Sweet 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 55-71 12-20 80.

SEAATTLE (108) Baker 9-14 2-3 20, Schropf 7-11 2-2 16, McInnis 3-5 0-0 4, Henson 5-11 1-2 15, Auer 4-13 5-8 14, Ellis 1-5 0-0 2, Perkins 2-2 2-2 7, Kestny 1-3 0-0 2, Williams 3-4 3-3 8, Anthony 2-0 0-0 5, Dook 1-5 2-2 4, Totals 44-84 12-14 108.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 41 (Polynice 7), Seattle 45 (Schropf 10). Assists—Sacramento 19 (Johnson, Funderburke, Polynice 4), Seattle 29 (Polynice 9), A-17, 172.

L.A. Clippers 25 12 32 25-95
Vancouver 25 27 24 25-106
L.A. CLIPPERS (95) Murray 3-8 5-8 12, Rogers 9-14 0-1 18, Auer 4-13 5-8 14, Peterson 5-11 4-5 20, Martin 2-12 2-2 7, Taylor 0-2 2-2 12, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Peterson 1-0 0-0 2, Smith 2-4 0-0 4, Goss 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 34-89 18-28 85.

VANCOUVER (106) Alder-Rosen 5-11 6-7 16, Smith 5-6 2-2 12, Reeves 14-26 7-8 35, Mach 2-13 0-0 6, Mayberry 1-2 0-0 3, Hurley 5-8 2-2 12, Lynch 3-11 1-2 7, Bledsoe 4-10 5-8 11, Graciov 0-0 0-0 0, Massenburg 2-6 0-0 4, Totals 43-81 24-44 106.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Los Angeles 54 (Wright 10), Vancouver 65 (Smith 18). Assists—Los Angeles 25 (Ellis 11), Vancouver 26 (Mayberry, Hurley 6), A-15, 152.

ATLANTIC DIVISION

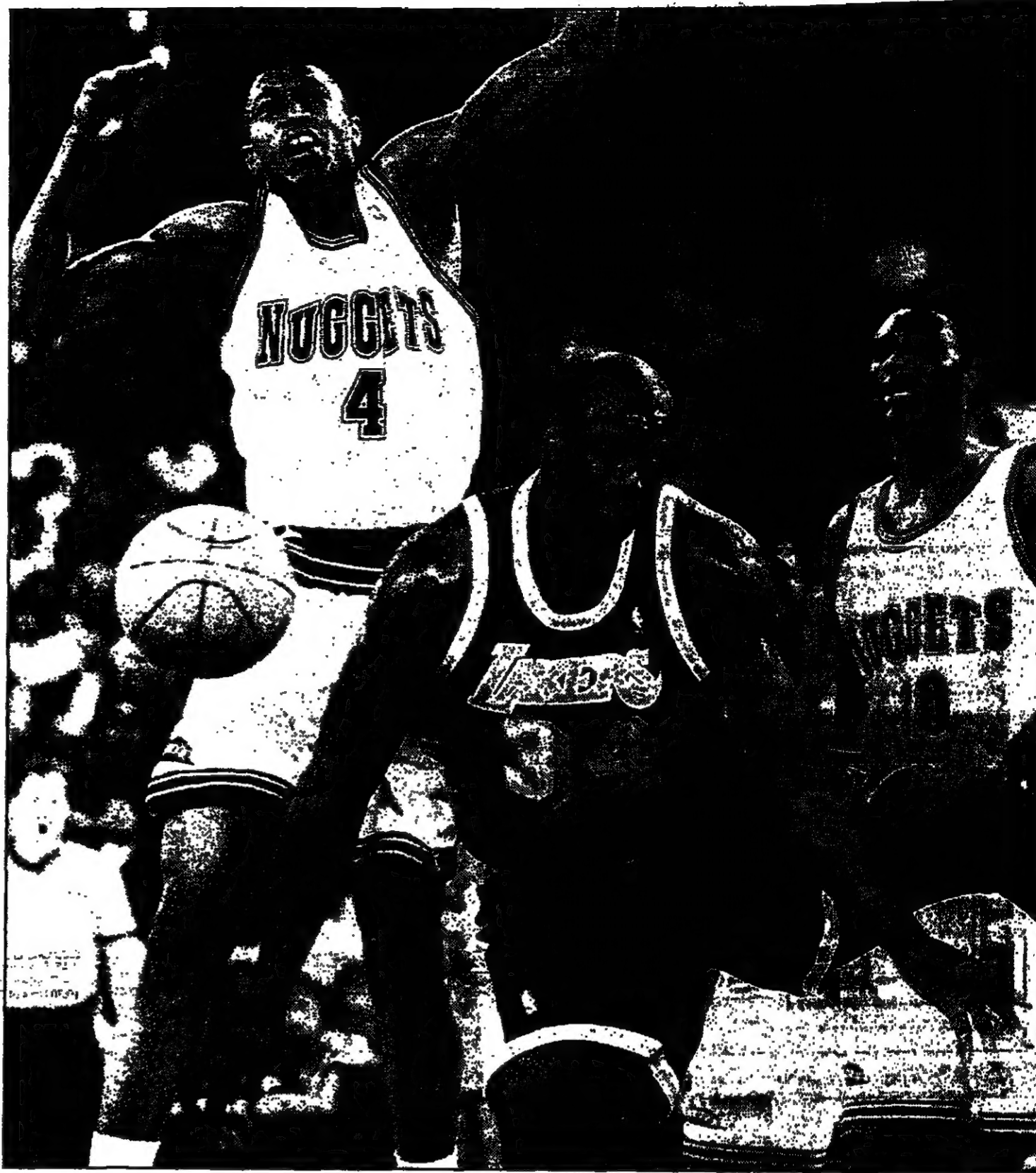
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Miami	48	21	.696	—
New York	37	31	.544	10½
Orlando	35	33	.515	12½
Washington	35	33	.515	12½
New Jersey	35	34	.507	13
Boston	38	41	.480	16½
Philadelphia	25	43	.368	22½

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Chicago	52	17	.754	—
Indiana	48	20	.706	3½
Charlotte	43	24	.642	8
Atlanta	40	27	.597	11
Cleveland	37	30	.552	14
Detroit	33	36	.478	19
Memphis	29	38	.433	22
San Antonio	15	52	.224	36

WESTERN DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Utah	50	17	.746	—
San Antonio	46	22	.676	4½
Houston	36	31	.537	14
Minnesota	35	34	.507	16
Dallas	33	36	.478	19
Denver	32	35	.478	20
Portland	28	41	.406	24



LOSING IT — Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal loses the ball while driving to the basket against Nuggets' Tony Battie (4) and Laphonso Ellis. Battie fouled O'Neal on the play. Los Angeles won 107-86.

NBA owners' reopening of labor pact could lead to lockout

DALLAS (Reuters) — The NBA Board of Governors voted overwhelmingly Monday to exercise the league's right to reopen the collective bargaining agreement, a move that could lead to a lockout.

NBA owners voted 27-2 to reopen negotiations and void the remaining three years of the six-year collective bargaining agreement. As a result, the agreement will now expire June 30, 1998. A simple majority vote, or 15 of the 29 teams, was all that was needed to authorize a reopening of labor talks.

"What we're seeing now is a system where salaries continue to rise and ticket prices continue to rise," said NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"It's our view that we're close to a system that works, but it doesn't quite hit it. We need a better system."

Owners had the right to set aside the final three years of the agreement if player salaries

climbed above 51.8 percent of basketball-related income. According to NBA Deputy Commissioner Granik, projections show that actual salaries and benefits for this season will be 57.2 percent or \$995 million.

"Although the league's revenue growth has been strong, player salaries are climbing much faster than revenues," said Granik. "As a result, the league is becoming unprofitable."

Granik said that at least half the teams in the NBA will lose money this season. "Last year, we calculated that 13 teams lost money, but we're pretty certain that at least 15 teams will lose money in 1997-98."

The NBA came close to a work stoppage prior to the 1995-96 season, when free agent signings were delayed and summer camps were postponed, but no games were missed. The NBA is the only major professional US league that has not lost games due to labor problems.

But if a new agreement with the Player's Association is not negotiated by July 1, a lockout likely would be imposed.

"In the negotiations, the NBA will not be proposing that players take pay cuts," said Granik. "In fact, we guarantee that salaries will continue to increase over the next several years."

We just have to get increases in player salaries in line with our increases."

The two sides may negotiate changes to the rookie salary cap and clarify rules regarding disciplining of players in the wake of the Latrell Sprewell discipline. An arbitrator last month reinstated Sprewell as a member of the Golden State Warriors and reduced the fallen star guard's NBA suspension for choking coach P.J. Carlesimo by five months.

A new CBA could also include a policy regarding the use of marijuana. None is currently in place and star players such as Chris Webber and Allen Iverson were arrested on marijuana-related charges in 1997.

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One-legged man gets OK for Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AP) — Mike Welch can run the Boston Marathon, and he can do it on one leg.

The amputee ran the marathon in eight hours last year, and organizers originally said that was about three hours too slow to qualify for the showcase race April 6.

Now they've decided Welch's determination is enough, and they'll accommodate him when he joins the elite and everyday marathoners on the 26.2-mile (42-kilometer) run from Hopkinton to Boston.

"I am psyched and I will be there," he said after hearing the Boston Athletic Association

decided to let him race. "I know how they can accommodate me."

The 38-year-old runner from the Boston Marathon Training Center, and in December he began training again for the race. Welch was standing last week, wearing a letter from the BAA saying he couldn't participate.

"He was not given an official number because he is no longer of speaking was qualified and this is a qualifying race," race director Guy Morse said Monday. "I've taken another look at Michael's situation and we will allow him to enter."

Morse said the BAA would arrange to have Welch start the

race about two hours before the other runners and arrange for his security and medical support along the course.

Welch, who lost his right leg in a Vietnam War battle, in which he was a medic, while his right foot was still attached in plastic. He put on his prosthetic and began racing a bicycle. Soon he was swimming and hiking seriously and, in 1988, Welch decided to try marathons.

Three years ago he set his sights on the Boston Marathon — the race's 100th anniversary. For Welch, however, the race is not important. It's the accomplishment, doing one leg what most people can't do on two.

Tiger and Ernie: A rivalry is born

ORLANDO (AP) — Arnold Palmer saw greatness the first time he laid eyes on Ernie Els and Tiger Woods.

He was paired with Els, a 22-year-old from South Africa, at the 1992 PGA Championship. Palmer was so mesmerized by his swing that on the 17th hole, he offered Els a spot in the Bay Hill Invitational.

Nearly four years later, Palmer and Jack Nicklaus were playing a practice round at the Masters with 20-year-old Tiger Woods, who had won the first of three consecutive US Amateur titles.

They agreed Woods had the game to win at least 10 green jackets, which no longer sounds implausible after the way Woods won last year.

What better place for golf's next rivalry to take root than at Palmer's tournament? "You're probably going to feel it a lot more now," Els said of a rivalry with Woods after he won the Bay Hill Invitational, a 36-hole Sunday in which he left Woods and Davis Love III in his wake.

"Golf is healthy at the moment, so it's good that both of us play well."

Of all the great players in their 20s, no two have a more comparable set of credentials than Woods and Els. Both won a major championship in their first full season on the PGA Tour — Els took the US Open at Oakland in 1994, Woods the Masters in his first try as a professional.

Both have six PGA Tour-recognized victories — Els is six years older, but also spends about half his time overseas, where he has won 21 times. Both are outstanding off the tee — Woods is about 20 yards longer — and have short games that are under-appreciated.

What makes this a natural rivalry is that Woods may be the one to finally bring out the fire in Els, who is so smooth it sometimes looks like he doesn't care.

Yzerman surge lifts Red Wings to tie Blackhawks 5-5

DETROIT (AP) — There is one reason, according to coach Scotty Bowman, why Detroit Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman has suddenly become productive again.

His name is Sergei Fedorov.

Yzerman scored two of Detroit's three third-period goals and assisted on the other Monday night as the Red Wings rallied from a 4-1 deficit for a 5-5 tie with the Chicago Blackhawks.

Yzerman has seven goals and nine assists in the 12 games since Fedorov returned from a season-long holdout.

"He's been playing well all season; now he's getting results," Bowman said. "Maybe that's one of the good things about Sergei being back."

Yzerman, who had two assists Monday, agreed that opponents can't concentrate on just one line or player since Fedorov's return.

"He gets the puck a lot and makes things happen," Yzerman said, "so it definitely balances the offense out."

Fedorov added a goal and an assist. He has two goals and six assists since his return.

The tie ended winning streaks for both clubs. Chicago had won its previous four; Detroit its last three.

"We can look at it two ways," Chicago coach Craig Hartsburg said. "The negative thing is we didn't hold the lead and let them back into the hockey game. We didn't win, but the positive is we came in here and got a point."

Detroit trailed 5-3 before Yzerman scored the Red Wings' third power-play goal of the game with 4:48 remaining.

Yzerman then tied it with 51.6 seconds remaining when his shot from just inside the Chicago blue line went through Chris Chelios' legs and deflected into the net off Chicago goaltender Chris Terreri.

Yzerman's four-point night left him just one shy of becoming only the 13th player in NHL history with 1,400 points.

Hurricanes 5, Panthers 3
Keith Primeau scored a pair of

goals as visiting Carolina extended Florida's losing streak to 13 games. Florida had won all three prior games between the teams, outscoring Carolina 13-4.

That was before the Panthers fell into a two-month losing streak, while the Hurricanes climbed into playoff contention.

"We read the papers when we got to town, and they said they were going to break the streak against us," Primeau said. "We didn't want that to happen."

Carolina moved into a ninth-place tie with the Rangers in the Eastern Conference. Carolina and New York trail Ottawa by five points in the race for the conference's final playoff spot.

Florida's woes continued. The Panthers are winless in their last 15. Florida's last victory came on Jan. 31 against Tampa Bay.

The loss moved the Panthers closer toward all-time futility. The NHL record for consecutive losses belongs to Washington, which dropped 17 in 1974-75.

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AP Wirephoto

CRITICS' CHOICE

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ THE SWEET HEREAFTER — The grave beauty of Canadian director Atom Egoyan's film dawns on us slowly, its power diffused as if by a time-release capsule. In the simplest terms, the movie (based on a Russell Banks novel) tells the story of a deadly school-bus accident and its painful effect on the residents of one small town. But the intricate narrative structure of Egoyan's script — which weaves back and forth across the course of two years — bestows on the film the shifting, enigmatic quality of memory itself. As the film progresses, our understanding of the central catastrophe is subtly colored and altered by all that's preceded and all that we know will follow. With Ian Holm. (Not recommended for children.)

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

Jeremy Davenport, singer and trumpeter, was Most Promising Jazz Artist from the influential *Downbeat* magazine last year, and he's only 25. Not surprisingly, he's another young genius from the stable of Wynton Marsalis, with whom he studied more than a decade ago, but he got his start playing trumpet in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Tonight he plays and sings at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem at 8:30 and on Friday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 10 p.m.

OPERA

HELEN KAYE

Rossini's romantic *Cenerentola*, or *Cinderella*, is the new production at the New Israeli Opera. It stars up-and-coming Mexican tenor Jorge Lopez-Yanes as the prince and Martine Dupuy in the title role. The conductor is Rossini specialist Alberto Zedda, and the director is Giancarlo del Monaco. Tomorrow at the Tel Aviv performing Arts Center at 1 p.m. (Italian with Hebrew subtitles.)



Jeremy Davenport sings and plays trumpet at the Israel Museum tonight.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The second stage of the Ninth International Artur Schnabel Piano Master Competition continues today at the Tel Aviv Museum (9 a.m. & 4), where each pianist presents a 60- to 70-minute free-choice recital that in most cases includes one of the two compulsory Israeli works in the competitions, Gil Shohat's *Sparks from the Beyond* and Eliezer Elper's *Toccata-Poema*.

A Window to Musical Cultures at the Jerusalem Music Center focuses today on the Arab music traditions of Israel, with workshops through the day and a concert at 9.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (17)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (17)

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Sciences
9:05 English
9:40 Mathematics
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 The Environment
12:00 Sciences
12:30 Music
13:00 Art
13:40 Cartoons
15:00 Huckleberry Finn

CHANNEL 1 (17)

15:30 Zap 1 and Super Ben
15:35 X Men
16:00 Byker Grove
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:59 A New Evening
17:00 Culture
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

20:00 Where Are We Going?
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 News Flash
19:31 Pop Clips
19:33 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:05 Conference Call
21:25 Rowing Reporter
22:15 Stars and Uniform — tribute to IDF
23:00 Once Under Fire
23:25 Filmed on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CABLE

ITV 3 (23)

Broadcasts after coverage of Knesset sitting
21:00 The 700 Club
21:05 CNN News
21:10 CNN News
21:15 CNN News
21:20 CNN News
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23:30 CNN News
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23:50 CNN News
23:55 CNN News
00:00 CNN News

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:45 Coffee with Tel-Ad
6:50 The Third Time
6:55 Theysenmelling
10:50 Picket Fences
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 The 700 Club
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Junior News
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Timon and Pumbaa
15:30 Quack Pack
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:30 The 700 Club
18:00 Port Charles
18:30 Before All
19:00 The 700 Club
19:30 Family Feud
20:00 News
20:05 Homicide (cont.)
00:45 MASH — The
19:00 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulse Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:40 Hart to Hart
13:00 John Larroquette
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:30 Murphy Brown
16:00 Dulse Ana
16:50 The 700 Club
17:30 Love Story with
Yves Sirey
18:00 Good Evening
18:30 The 700 Club
19:00 Local Broadcast
19:30 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening
7:15 The 700 Club
7:30 Love Story with
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8:00 One Life to Live
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CHANNEL 4

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CHANNEL 6

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CHANNEL 7

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CHANNEL 8

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CHANNEL 9

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CHANNEL 10

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CHANNEL 11

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CHANNEL 12

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CHANNEL 13

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Inside

Cuban defectors' odyssey

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Sampras in danger as world No. 1

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Israel hopeful of Davis Cup success v. Austria

By HEATHER CHAIT

"If we lose this tie, it'll be a disappointment," said Davis Cup captain Shlomo Glickstein, referring to next weekend's crucial tennis encounter with Austria at Ramat Hasharon.

The winning country will advance to the playoff in September for the 1999 16-nation World Group.

"We're playing at home and they're without their two best players," was how Glickstein summed up the situation at yesterday's press conference.

Until February this year Austria had appeared the natural favorites. Then first Thomas Muster withdrew for professional reasons while the No. 2, Gilbert Schaller, later pulled out with a shoulder injury.

In their absence, Austria is expected to be represented by Stefan Koubek (152 in the ATP rankings), Wolfgang Schranz (205), Gerald Mandl (208) and Thomas Buchmayer (552). All are new to the Davis Cup.

Eyal Erlich (183), Eyal Ran (220), Neam Behr (262) and Amir Hadad (270) will comprise the Israeli squad.

Erlich and Ran are likely to be slotted into the singles matches with the proven duo of Erlich and Behr performing in the doubles.

Glickstein said that all his players are in good physical shape even though their recent results have not been remarkable.

"Our players have a good feeling about this tie," he said.

In the Austrians' favor, Glickstein cited their captain, Günther Bresnik, for his past Davis Cup experience.

Austria holds a 2-1 edge over Israel in Davis Cup ties, with wins in 1963 and 1978, but losing in 1985.

The matches will be held in the Canada Stadium, beginning on Friday and Sunday at 14:00, with the opening ceremony and doubles rubber on Saturday at 15:00.

Tickets for adults are NIS 25 with a family pass available at NIS 50.

Entry for soldiers is free. Channel 5 will be broadcasting Friday's play live.

Browns Town renaissance in 1999

NFL awards expansion team to Cleveland

ORLANDO (AP) — Cleveland can give this move the old Dawg Pound salute.

With dog masks and "woof-woof-woofs" only 17 months away, Cleveland was awarded an expansion team on Monday that will take the field wearing orange and brown in 1999.

The unprecedented move restores one of football's signature franchises to a loyal city once known as Browns Town. From Jim Brown and Lou Groza to Ozzie Newsome and Bernie Kosar, Cleveland has its football fix back.

"It's great for everyone in Cleveland to hear this," said Kosar, the former Browns quarterback who is expected to be involved in ownership or management of the expansion team.

With unanimous support from owners, the league will expand to 31 teams, easing the blow from one of the most emotional franchise relocations in sports history.

Cleveland, a city without a pastime for two winters and counting, has been rooting for a new team — not a relocated one — to go with its new stadium and new owner yet to be named.

"After two years of not having a team and feeling that our hometown had been slighted, we're now over the hump," said Laura Martinez, Massie of the Browns Fans Worldwide Network. "If we had not voiced our opinions, the owners would have thought we'd take anything."

The Browns will return to the AFC Central, playing their first exhibition game against Dallas in the Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, next year. The first home game is set for Aug. 21, 1999 in a new stadium being built on the same site as old

Cleveland Stadium, which was torn down after the move.

The \$247 million, 72,000-seat stadium even features a replica of that famous section in the Cleveland Stadium end zone known as the Dawg Pound, where the most rabid Browns rooters roared.

"A number of owners made very strong statements in favor of expansion," including Art Modell, said NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, referring to the former Browns owner who moved the team to Baltimore after the 1995 season.

Tagliabue also announced that the league hired Joe Mack as player personnel director of the Browns. Mack held that position with the Washington Redskins from 1989-94 and helped build the Carolina Panthers expansion team as assistant general manager in 1994.

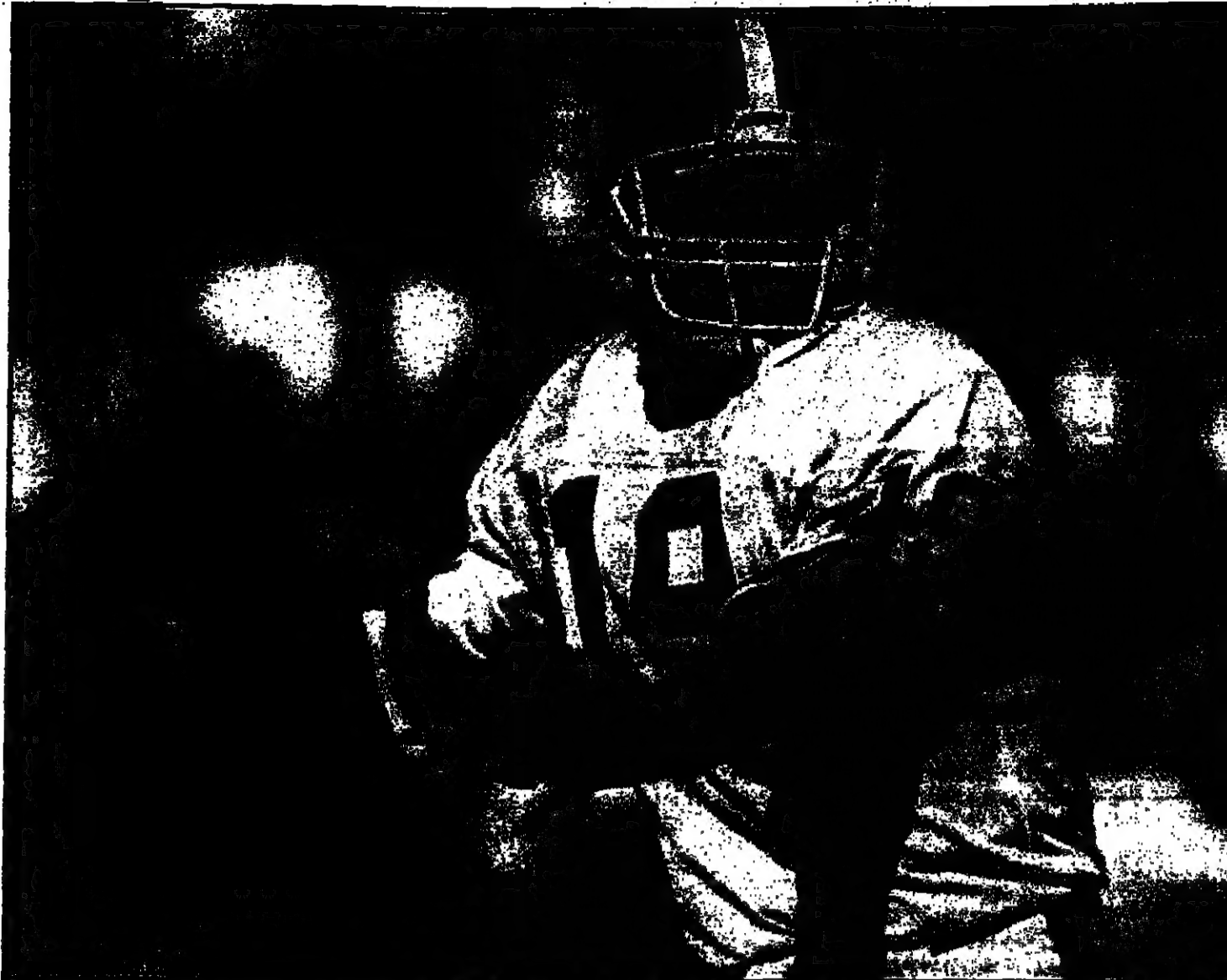
The front office will be assembled by George Young, retired general manager of the New York Giants and now a league vice president.

The league will now focus on taking applications for an owner and setting a franchise fee, which is expected to be in the \$350 million range. Owners decided not to let those unsolved issues delay the Cleveland announcement any longer.

Although expansion was the expected option for Cleveland, the swift approval came as a surprise because a few owners, including Jerry Jones of the Cowboys, apparently were not sold on the idea.

"I was one of the people who wanted to get this done," said Modell, reviled in Cleveland after the move.

The agreement between the city and league calls for the new Browns to maintain their colors and history, including records and statistics.



UP FRONT — Former Browns' QB Bernie Kosar has put in a bid for ownership or front-office management.

Absolute fighting — absolute madness

It's known by lots of monikers: Absolute — or ultimate — or extreme or super — fighting, but it's nothing more

(or less) than bare-knuckle fistfights, and it's scheduled to come here next month as part of an international martial arts festival at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliahu Sports Palace.

"Not if I can help it," said Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, quoted in *Yedioth Aharnoth*. "It's and everything, and I shall do all I can to make sure it is canceled."

This type of competition took on world-wide notoriety recently when a match in Kiev ended in the death of American pugilist Douglas Dedge. It's literally a no-holds-barred contest, which continues until one cries uncle, assuming he can cry anything at all. According to the rules of the competition, everything goes: except eye-gouging, hitting below the belt, biting, hair-pulling, scratching and kicking with shoes on.

The festival is scheduled for April 13 during the intermediate days of Pessah. Contestants for the entire competition, which includes the more traditional judo, jujitsu, taekwondo, karate, aikido and Thai boxing, hail from Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, the US and Hungary.

When questioned about the Kiev fatality, event organizer Amir Peleg said that deaths are rare and in the particular case in question, was due to standard refereeing.

Peleg also noted that the fight in Kiev was not sanctioned by the International Absolute Fighting Council,

which sent out a disclaimer that Dedge had never before participated in this competition and was unknown to council members.

Similarly, the World Vale Judo Championship stated that the fight in Kiev had been unsupervised. Absolute fighting seems to be, at best, a hybrid cousin of boxing, if indeed there is any kinship at all.

Before the turn of the century, boxing, which was often referred to as the gentlemanly art of self-defense, was a bare-knuckle affair, with rules that varied from town to town and fight to fight. Regulation of the sport into a specified number of rounds together with permitted and prohibited punches and the administering of ringside first-aid, occurred only gradually as the Twentieth Century unfolded.

In 16th-century Italy, for example, fighters were tethered by a rope around their waists, long enough for one fighter to be down with the other left standing. The idea, of course, was to make it impossible to utilize defensive techniques and to duke it out to the bitter end.

The resurgence of absolute fighting appears to be a return to those not-so-good-old days.

If certain political forces are at work today to ensure that Rabbi Avraham Heshel's appearance in Israel will be unpleasant, surely a similar across-the-board vigil could be maintained that any martial art played out on this soil is one where the goal is to win by scoring points, not to pummel into oblivion.

COMMENT

By JOE HOFFMAN

Hussain century leads England towards safety

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) — Nasser Hussain's first century against West Indies led England towards safety in the sixth Test yesterday.

After a series of heavy showers had delayed the start of the final day until after lunch, Hussain and Graham Thorpe battled through the afternoon session to take England to 275 for three at tea.

Hussain, who had completed a half century on Monday, played the major role in an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 148 with Thorpe.

This century, his sixth in 29 Tests, took nearly six hours, came off 289 balls and included 14 fours.

Hussain enjoyed one let-off at 74 when he hit the ball hard towards square leg where Courtney Walsh failed to hold a difficult chance to his left. He was run out when on 106 after the tea interval.

Thorpe's patient unbeaten 61 was compiled from 234 balls and included just three fours.

He gave an almost faultless display, although an edge into the slips fell just short of West Indies captain Brian Lara.

Zimbabwe-Pakistan

In Harare, some dazzling strokeplay by Saeed Anwar carried Pakistan to 58 for one from just 14 overs as they chased a victory target of 192 against Zimbabwe in the second Test yesterday.

Anwar's unbeaten 38 on the fourth day included six fours and a six.

Zimbabwe had made a good start when Pakistan set off in pursuit of their target by removing Ashraf Mahmood for nine in the third over of the innings.

He tried to leg-gance fast bowler Heath Street, but succeeded only in deflecting the ball off the back of the bat to Alistair Campbell at second slip.

Despite a determined 81 from the consistent Murray Goodwin, Zimbabwe's second innings 268 total fell short of giving Pakistan a substantial target.

Israel to host Argentina at Teddy

By ORI LEWIS

Israel and Argentina will meet in a friendly soccer international in Jerusalem next month, a local sports official said yesterday.

Zion Turgeman, head of the Jerusalem Municipality sports department told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Argentines will play Israel at the Teddy Kolek stadium in capital on April 15.

"We received a fax from them today (Tuesday) confirming their arrival, and tomorrow we will begin making arrangements for the match," Turgeman said.

Turgeman said that he expects the stadium to be filled to capacity for the encounter, which will include an entertainment program including the naming of Israel's outstanding soccer player over the past half century.

The Argentines will be making what has now become a traditional quadrennial pilgrimage to Israel. The tradition began in 1986, the year Argentina won the World Cup. In the encounter in Tel Aviv that year, Diego Maradona led the visitors to a 7-2 humiliation of Israel. In two subsequent visits also in Tel Aviv, Argentina won 2-1 in 1990 and 3-0 in 1994. The only other meeting between the two sides ended in a 1-1 draw in 1973.

Israel are currently on a three-match winning streak, having beaten Turkey 4-0 and Poland 2-0 at home last month, and Romania 1-0 away last week. All the matches were friendlies.

Simmons recalled for one-day series

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) — West Indies have brought back all-rounder Phil Simmons, who has taken no part in the Test series, for the five one-day matches against England.

The first match of the series is in Barbados on Sunday.

Simmons, who has played 126 limited overs internationals, leg spinner Ravi Lewis and young fast bowler Mervyn Dillon were in the squad which toured Pakistan but have not played in any of the six Tests against England.

Squad: Brian Lara (captain), Carl Hooper, Philo Wallace, Clayton Lambert, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Stuart Williams, Phil Simmons, Junior Murray, Ravi Lewis, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Franklin Rose, Mervyn Dillon.

Media: Atherton should go

LONDON (Reuters) — Mike Atherton is on the way out as England captain after another lost series and poor performances with the bat, British newspapers agreed yesterday.

With his team struggling to avoid an innings defeat in Antigua, headlines at home already concluded his fate was sealed.

"Atherton heads for the exit" led *The Guardian's* back page, while *The Mirror* quoted former England captain Ian Botham as advising him to quit straight away.

"He looks very tired and as though he's not enjoying it," the all-rounder said. "Personally I would get out at the end of this Test." West Indies set England 373 to avoid an innings defeat on Monday, but opener Atherton celebrated his 30th birthday with a paltry 13.

"Birthday blues for Atherton as another flop spells end of his captaincy," headlined the *Daily Mail*, who suggested his opening partner Alec Stewart, who made 79, could be the next candidate for the job.

"Stewart assumed the mantle of authority as easily as he might slip into a new sweater," the *Daily Mail* said.

After Curtly Ambrose had Atherton leg before in the 15th over, *The Times* described the captain as resigned to his fate.

"His head on his chest, his steps so slow they barely propelled him from the scene," Atherton left the crease in a way that defied anyone to believe he could return," Alan Lee, writing in *The Times*, said.

Atherton has played 52 Tests as captain and has won 13. He is only the fourth player in 121 years to lead his country in 50 Tests.

Hall returns to Newcastle, turns on tabloids

By GEORGE CAULKIN

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) — Sir John Hall returned as chairman of crisis-torn Newcastle United yesterday and immediately launched an attack on the tabloid press over their allegations of sleaze which caused two of the club's top officials to resign.

In an emotionally-charged press conference at St James' Park yesterday, Hall reflected on the "anguish" suffered by his family during the previous 10 days.

He was speaking after his son, Douglas, and previous chairman Freddy Shepherd finally resigned from the club's board after coming

under immense pressure from fans, media and fellow directors.

In a swipe at the media, Hall said: "The vilification that Douglas and Freddy have been put through has been terrible to watch. Yes, it's been self-inflicted, but the question has to be asked: why were they targeted? 'Are they MPs? Are they arms dealers? Was anything that was said in the public interest? The answer, self-evidently, is no."

So why were they set up, why were they the subject of such an elaborate and expensive trap?"

The pair had been under intense scrutiny since a Sunday newspaper alleged they had ridiculed supporters, described local women as

"dogs," insulted star player Alan Shearer and sold striker Andy Cole to Manchester United knowing he was injured.

Announcing he was retaking the helm of the club he led from the brink of bankruptcy in 1992 until stepping down late last year, Sir John admitted: "The effect on the Hall and Shepherd families has been awful and the effect on Newcastle United has been sad to watch."

"Both Freddy and Douglas are full of remorse for what was said and cannot apologize enough for the pain that has been caused."

"However, anybody who knows them realizes that these events are totally out of character. What must

not be forgotten is the fact that they've been great supporters of this region, creating jobs and prosperity in the area."

Earlier Hall had told reporters: "The most difficult thing about all this, as a parent and grandparent, has been trying to explain it to a sobbing child sitting in my arms. For that, I'll never forgive and I'll never forget."

Hall's decision to return to the club, at least until the end of the season, was broadly welcomed by Newcastle fans.

"We need stability now and he's probably the best man for that," said one season-ticket holder. "He's the one who took us to where we are now."

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